

Friday May 10 1996

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The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

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With European weather

The legacy of Derek Jarman

Mr Holland's latest opus

Review

Art in the age of Aids

Jools takes the crown

Film books special: David Lean, Eisenstein, Palace Pictures

Plus Richard Williams on Eno

Major thrown into new sleaze row as he refuses to condemn six accused

Porter faces £31m bill

MPs vote to keep forces ban on gays

David Hencke and Rebecca Smithers

DAME Shirley Porter, the Tesco heiress, was fighting last night to prevent losing half her fortune to pay a £31 million surcharge after being found guilty of orchestrating the biggest corruption scandal in local government this century.

The former Westminster leader landed John Major in a fresh sleaze storm in the Commons after he refused to condemn her and five others accused of gerrymandering the Tories' flagship council at the expense of homeless people.

Her appeal — which must be lodged in 28 days — could take place in the run-up to the next election. Dame Shirley was said to have engaged two firms of accountants and a new barrister to fight the ruling.

Westminster council is expected to announce today that its council house sales programme will be halted because it could be illegal under the findings of John Magill, the district auditor. Ministers will also be forced to announce a review of the inquiry system, set up by the Tories in 1983, after the legal hearing.

Dame Shirley, who left Britain for Tel Aviv in 1991, will be landed with nearly all the £31 million bill because none of the officials and councillors has the means to meet the surcharge under rules which make them "jointly and severally liable" for the mispent money and losses caused by their unlawful policy, known as the "homes for votes" scandal.

The five, who include her deputy council leader David Weeks and former managing director Bill Phillips, face financial ruin if they have to meet their £5 million share of the bill.

Dame Shirley has a fortune estimated at \$80 million, mainly inherited from shares in Tesco, the firm set up by her father, Sir Jack Cohen. The flamboyant former Westminster leader and friend of Lady Thatcher, has a rich husband, Sir Leslie Porter, a Lloyd's name, who ran a textile business before chairing Tesco from 1973 to 1985. They live in an exclusive £1.3 million apartment overlooking the Mediterranean in Tel Aviv. Since the 1960s they have donated millions of pounds to charities in Israel through the Porter Foundation, which has funds of about £20 million and has recently earned income of about £1 million a year.

Both are on the board of governors of Tel Aviv university, where Dame Shirley is planning to build a block in memory of her grandson Daniel Markus, killed in a car accident in 1983. They enjoy the status of temporary residents in Tel Aviv, but still keep a home in Chester Square, Belgrave, London. Winters are often spent in Palm Springs, Florida.

The row over the seven-year inquiry — which had



Porter's pearls

'Of course we're not as similar as we are cracked up to be. We were just both strong women in politics. We were both grocer's daughters, I suppose, but hers was only a corner shop'

— on Lady Thatcher

'Everything I get involved in I seem to end up running'

— on herself

'I must epitomise everything rabid left-wing socialists dislike. They don't like my strength and they don't like my background'

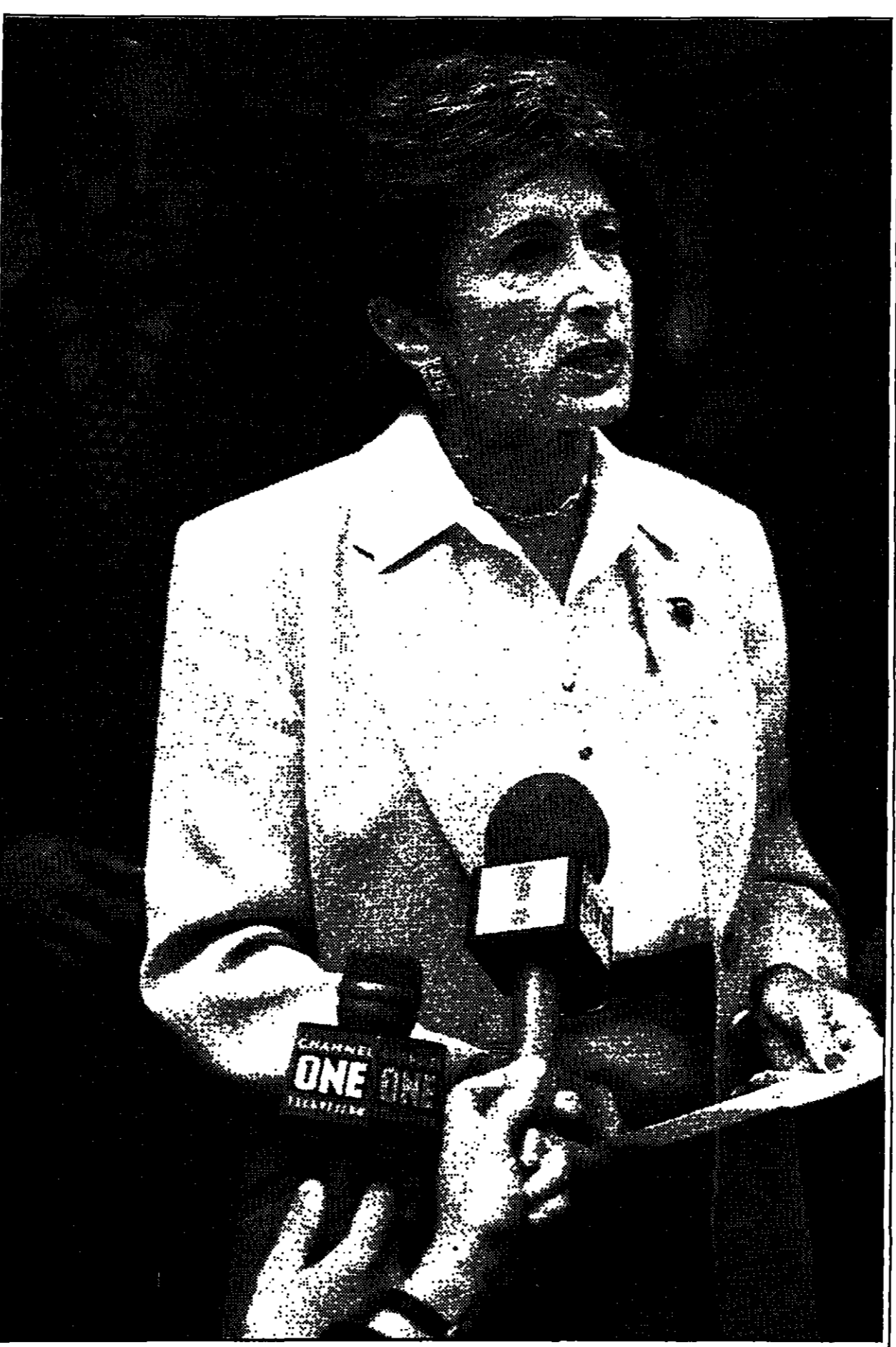
on political opposition

'Local authority work is no longer the polite, cushy, civil service-like profession. It's hard, tough, revolutionary. It's not like council work in Stow-on-the-Wold'

— on claims about her 'reign of terror'

been prolonged by the alleged destruction and withholding of vital evidence by senior officials and Dame Shirley herself — caused mayhem in the Commons. She was angry in 1994 that he would "condemn unreservedly" the initial allegations in Mr Magill's interim report, should they subsequently be confirmed.

But Mr Blair said that if Mr Major refused to condemn the actions "of a flagship Con-



Dame Shirley Porter protests her innocence at her lawyers' chambers in the face of jeers yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

servative council... will it not be crystal clear to the British people that there are no depths to which the Conservative Party will not stoop to gain re-election to any office that it holds?

Earlier, Dame Shirley had read out a short statement protesting her innocence and insisting that there had been no wrong-doing by the council.

Speaking on the doorstep of her lawyers' Fleet Street chambers, she could barely be heard against the protests of Westminster residents who chanted: "Go back to Israel".

Dame Shirley said she and her former colleagues had been the victim of a kangaroo court. Mr Magill's investigation has been blatantly unfair, she told reporters. "One man

Michael White Political Editor

MPs last night voted to uphold the Ministry of Defence's traditional ban on homosexuals serving in the armed forces in the face of warnings that European court actions would force a U-turn on Britain within three years.

After an impassioned debate, triggered by Tory MP Edwina Currie's amendment to the Armed Forces Bill, the Government's three-line whip prevailed — by 188 votes to 120 — over an all-party coalition which accused ministers of prejudice and injustice, inefficiency and expense in enforcing existing rules.

To the dismay of some Labour MPs, the shadow cabinet's decision to permit a free vote meant that many Opposition members were absent. Despite earlier promises that a Labour government would seek to change the law, Tony Blair abstained.

Though he supports the amendment in principle, the Labour leader believes it cannot be imposed on the armed forces against their will — the view upheld this week by a cross-party committee of MPs, which agreed that removing the ban would undermine service morale and operational effectiveness.

Labour's junior defence spokesman, Dr John Reid, admitted the balance between civil rights and military imperatives was always difficult and curbed such rights as free speech and political and trade union activity.

While condemning "red-neck, thick-skulled bigots", he argued that the potential for sexual relations in combat units did undermine military effectiveness and tipped the balance on "logical objective grounds".

Dr Reid's words produced anger among some MPs, but were endorsed by the Army Minister, Nicholas Soames. "The services do not have the right to be different, they

have the need to be different," he said.

The Currie amendment would have permitted sexual activity, heterosexual or gay, except when it was likely to be prejudicial to good order, undermined command relations or involved abuse of higher rank for sexual purposes. No one would be discharged solely on grounds of sexual orientation.

There were repeated predictions — challenged by Mr Soames — that the European Court of Human Rights would force whichever party was in power to reverse the law in 1997-99.

Michael Brown, a Euro-sceptic as well as the only openly gay Tory MP, said it was better that Parliament redress an injustice rather than be dragged into doing so. Other Tories said the EU's own court might strike first on equal opportunity grounds — and should be rebuffed, lest it open the floodgates to costly compensation claims.

MPs backing the bill included the Liberal Democrat defence spokesman, Menzies Campbell, and former Labour minister Gerald Kaufman.

Mr Campbell argued that "the attitude within the services is almost inevitably conditioned by the fact that the ban exists" — tantamount to saying that past prejudice against women and black people should also have been upheld.

Mrs Currie told MPs that the blanket ban on gay and lesbian people in the services was unique, since discipline arising from offences related to drugs, alcohol, heterosexual conduct and conventional crime were discretionary.

Many of the 300-400 people forced out of the forces were expensively trained, "loyal and patriotic" servicemen and women whom the MoD could not afford to lose.

MPs had earlier voted by 208 to 129 against Labour MP Andrew McIntyre's plea for a pardon for 300 traumatised servicemen shot for desertion and related offences in the first world war.

De Klerk's withdrawal from Mandela government brings rude end to constitution joy

David Bearesford in Cape Town

SOUTH Africa was stunned yesterday by the abrupt withdrawal of the National Party from the coalition government, a decision precipitated by disagreements over the country's new constitution and the growing finan-

cial crisis resulting from the collapse of the rand. The deputy president, F. W. de Klerk, and his six party colleagues on the 27-member cabinet will withdraw from government at the end of next month. The announcement came after a hurried meeting of the National Party's federal council, called to end uncertainty over the issue, which

was seen as a major factor in the battering taken by the South African currency on foreign exchange markets. The rand has lost roughly a quarter of its value since February, eating at the country's gold and foreign exchange reserves. There were indications late yesterday that the party decision by the party could calm the markets.

President Nelson Mandela tried to put a brave face on the blow to his fledgling national unity administration, which came as parliamentarians were still nursing hangovers from late-night celebrations of Wednesday's adoption of a new South African constitution. Mr Mandela insisted that the National Party pullout

could strengthen the country, and that it demonstrated that "our democracy has come of age". He said he was confident that he and Mr De Klerk would continue to work together "in pursuit of our country's interests". Just a few hours earlier, however, he had reacted to predictions of a withdrawal by saying: "I sincerely hope that wise

counsel will prevail and they will remain." There was immediate speculation yesterday that Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party would follow the National Party into opposition. They issued a statement to the effect that they would turn to page 2, column 3.

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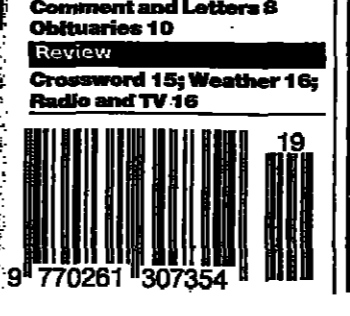
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Prague Writers' Festival 1996

This year the Prague Writers' Festival, directed by Michael March, will once again showcase a selection of fine authors from around the world. Meet them at the Viola Theatre, Narodni 7, (nearest metro Narodni) from May 9-11. For more details call: 44 171 7134133

Thursday May 9
Sylvia Fischerová - Czech Republic
Andrzej Sosnowski - Poland
Evelyn Schlag - Austria
Nuno Júdice - Portugal

Friday May 10
Paul Durcan - Ireland
John F. Deane - Ireland
James Kelman - Scotland
R.S. Thomas - Wales

Saturday May 11
Ewald Murrer - Czech Republic
Jim Barnes - USA
Abdullah al-Udhari - Yemen
Natan Zach - Israel

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Trader in rare species jailed



Roseanne Barr: project dropped

Darling, we've been binned by the Yanks

Ian Katz in New York and Barbie Dutter

A YEAR ago Absolutely Fabulous was the toast of American television.

But yesterday, as it emerged that plans for a film version have been scrapped.

Roseanne's version of the sitcom has already reportedly been placed on ice because of network executives' nervousness over Patsy and Edina's prodigious appetite for drugs, booze and men.

A heavily toned down American-made AbFab clone has meanwhile bombed, and Comedy Central, the cable channel which still airs the BBC original, starring Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley, three times a week, reports that ratings are way down from its peak last year.

"We're on the back end of it now," said Comedy Central spokesman Joe Lyons.

The channel has already broadcast the 24 episodes of the sitcom several times.

Polygram Film Entertainment last year signed a deal with Ms Saunders, who conceived and wrote the series about a boozey middle-aged fashion publi-



Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley as Patsy and Edina in Absolutely Fabulous. The toned down US version has bombed

cist, her prissy teenage daughter, played by Julia Sawalha, and her fast-living, promiscuous friend played by Ms Lumley.

But in Cannes this week, Ms Saunders' agent, Maureen Vincent, said the comedian and writer had "come to the conclusion, after a long period of thinking, that she didn't want to expose her idea on the big screen."

Polygram sources told Daily Variety that they had accepted a script treatment prepared by Ms Saunders, but she had later decided

not to go ahead with the film version.

Last year, the series was deemed too crude for prime time viewing by executives at the US television network ABC.

The show was axed before it went on air following rows over the raunchy scripts.

Ms Saunders' scripts were rewarded with Bafta and Emmy awards, as was Ms Lumley's larger-than-life portrayal of Patsy, the drunken, nymphomaniacal best friend of Saunders' Edina. The producer, Jon Plowman, also received a Bafta award in the show's first year.

The first series is currently being repeated by the BBC, following a decision by Ms Saunders to pull the plug on the show, which earned her an estimated £600,000 from her deal with the BBC and as-

sorted spin-offs. She has, however, written a special, hour-long farewell episode, centred on Edina and Patsy's adventures on the ski slopes, which will be screened as a one-off in the autumn to spearhead a £21 million BBC comedy package.

Most will outgrow symptoms, study suggests Nearly 50pc suffer 'asthma' attacks

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent

NEARLY half the population are likely to develop wheezing illnesses such as asthma by their early 30s, researchers say today in one of the biggest ever studies carried out into incidence of the condition.

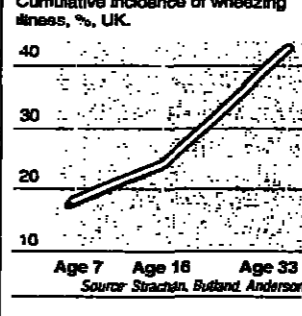
They warn that although the majority of children with asthma will outgrow the symptoms, a quarter will continue with problems throughout their adult life.

The researchers say that by the age of seven, 18 per cent of people have suffered from wheezing illness. This rises to 24 per cent at age 16, and 43 per cent at 33.

David Strachan and colleagues, from the department of public health sciences at St George's Hospital, London, say that a history of hay fever and smoking are the main risk factors for adult asthma. One of the clearest risk factors for children developing asthma is if their mothers have smoked during pregnancy.

The doctors have used data from 15,539 people, who comprise what is known as the 1958 British national child development study.

Out of breath Cumulative incidence of wheezing illness, % UK



This is following the lives of all people born in England, Scotland and Wales in the week starting March 3, 1958, monitoring their health at certain points.

The members of the group have been examined at the ages of 7, 11, 16, 24 and 33.

Dr Strachan and his colleagues, reporting their findings in the British Medical Journal, say that previous attempts to assess the incidence of wheezing illness may have underestimated it by as much as a third.

"At least two-thirds of children who develop wheezing by the age of 16 do so before they are five years old, and many experience their first attack in infancy," they continue. "Abnormal-

ities in lung function are detectable before the onset of asthmatic symptoms. Some causal agent must therefore act very early in life, possibly before birth.

The researchers looked at a number of factors to see if these influenced risk of the illness, including maternal age, the number of other children, birth weight, premature delivery and breast feeding, but found that there was no connection.

Mothers suffering a haemorrhage during pregnancy, which can be caused by smoking, represented a risk, as did an abnormality of a protein called albumin. Smoking during pregnancy also constituted a risk factor.

The doctors point out that asthma symptoms tend to die down in late teenage years. But in their study they found these problems could reappear later, with one quarter wheezing at the age of 33, although the majority of these had been free of attacks after the age of 16.

"We believe that our study is unique in showing that, even after a disease-free interval of seven years, subjects with a history of wheezing illness in childhood retained a risk of later wheezing above that of their healthy peers," say the doctors.

Scots keep flag flying

Forsyth hoist by his own protest as office is draped in EU colours

Vivok Chaudhary

IF Michael Forsyth had had his way, few in Scotland would have noticed that yesterday was Europe Day.

That was until two supporters of the Scottish National Party decided to drape a European Union flag above the Scottish Secretary's constituency office in Stirling.

The stunt was pulled by Charles Gormley, who lives above the office, and Dr Robert McIntyre, an elder statesman of the Scottish National Party, after Mr Forsyth banned the EU flag from being hoisted above government buildings in Scotland in protest at the European ban on British beef.

Mr Gormley's wife, Jeanette, said her husband had come up with the idea during a conversation with Dr McIntyre, who lives next door to the Stirling Conservative office.

She added: "I'm not that keen on Europe myself. It's really just to upset Michael Forsyth. We've been trying to get up his nose for years but we don't usually seem to get very far."

Dr McIntyre, now retired from public life, was the last Provost of the old Royal Burgh of Stirling before its abolition in 1975. He was also the first SNP member to be elected a Member of Parliament.

He said: "It's not my flag and it's not my flat. Charles

Gormley hung it out and Charles is a very nice neighbour.

"The Tories are not nice neighbours, although they've been more polite recently since they started to do so badly in the opinion polls."

Mr Forsyth, who is attending the Scottish Conservative conference, was not there to see the blue European flag supersede the Union Flag which usually flies above his constituency office.

His agent Simon Turner, however, failed to see the funny side of a valiant attempt to forge a bit of European unity.

He said: "People above the office are supporters of the SNP and would surrender our sovereignty to Brussels."

Groundsman caught off guard

Vivok Chaudhary

HE LAMENTS a bygone era where cricketers arrived in suits, called the groundsman sir, and respected him "because he knew his ground."

Women. Tony Pocock once said during his reign as head groundsman at Fenner's, Cambridge University's home ground, posed the biggest threat to the institution's cricketing pedigree.

The arrival of more women meant fewer men, which meant fewer audiences, and consequently the collapse of cricketing standards.

Nothing, however, had prepared Mr Pocock for the arrival of the consultants.

Yesterday, cries of "Howzat!" gave way to claims of unfair dismissal as an industrial tribunal heard Mr Pocock allege that he was constructively dismissed from his job two years ago by Cambridge University.

His professional capability, he said, had been "eroded irreparably" after outside consultants were brought in to do work for which Mr Pocock believed he should have been solely responsible.

The row surrounding one of Britain's most venerable cricket grounds, which has played host to some of the sport's greatest stars, began in 1994 when the university decided to lay a new square under the supervision of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB).



Tony Pocock... 'Professional standing was eroded'

Mr Pocock, aged 48, who joined the ground staff at Fenner's at the age of 15, told the tribunal: "I was head groundsman at Fenner's. I should have overseen the work. My professional capability was eroded and irreparably damaged."

The tribunal heard that Andy Cosh, the cricket club representative at Cambridge University, only spoke to Mike Cawley and Harry Eynd, the two TCCB consultants who were overseeing the work.

Mr Pocock said: "Dr Cosh did not want to know my opinion.

"He was listening to Harry Eynd and Mike Cawley. He did not take an interest in what I was saying."

Mr Pocock, who once said that he remained single because "I'm married to my job", said that in August 1994 he was offered a new position as head custodian of a set of artificial pitches by Tony Lemons, director of physical education at Cambridge University.

Under cross-examination, he admitted that the post amounted to a promotion, but added: "I took it as a threat to my position at Fenner's. He (Mr Lemons) gave me the impression he wanted the control of Fenner's and to restructure my position."

"I found him arrogant and forceful, as if he was saying 'If you don't take the job, something will happen down the pipeline.'"

Mr Pocock said that since leaving his job, he had been receiving treatment for a stress-related illness.

Amanda Lyne, representing the university, which is contesting the allegations, suggested that Mr Pocock's method on relaying wickets in the past had been to dig out six inches of soil before filling them with loam.

The TCCB specifications, she claimed, involved digging 12 inches of soil, relaying eight inches of base material followed by four inches of top dressing.

Mr Pocock replied: "I laid pitches to the best ability as head groundsman."

An Aga saga, however, it is not, and in case you are still in any doubt, by page 83 Trollope takes a swipe at the genre. Lyndsay is reading a novel about country life but "it was a wish-think world of bird-song and caricature villagers..."

Laura Tennant. Review page 7

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4 BRITAIN

Goya goes on sale as BR shunts its art to the market

Dan Glaister reports on the offloading of a pension fund's amassed treasures

A BRITISH Rail sell-off with a difference was announced yesterday with the news that its pension fund is to auction a work by the Spanish painter Francisco de Goya. The painting, *Death Of A Picador*, will have an estimated price of £1.5 million when it goes for auction at Sotheby's in London.

The painting is one of a series of six bullfighting scenes painted in 1793, when Goya was recovering from a severe illness, probably tinitus. It marks a transitional period in Goya's career, as he moved from the court painting he had carried out before his illness to the more fantastic and grotesque works for which he is chiefly known today.

It is also seen as one of the first times an artist was painting for his own pleasure, rather than to please a patron.

As so many of Goya's small works have been sold abroad, Sotheby's expects Spanish collectors to make a strong bid to bring back the painting to Spain.

BR's pension fund invested £40 million of its reserves, 2.9 per cent of its assets, in fine art in the 1970s. The 2,400 works accumulated over seven years have been sold off since the late 1980s. Another Goya from the same series, *Sorting The Bulls*, sold last year for £1.8 million, double its reserve price.

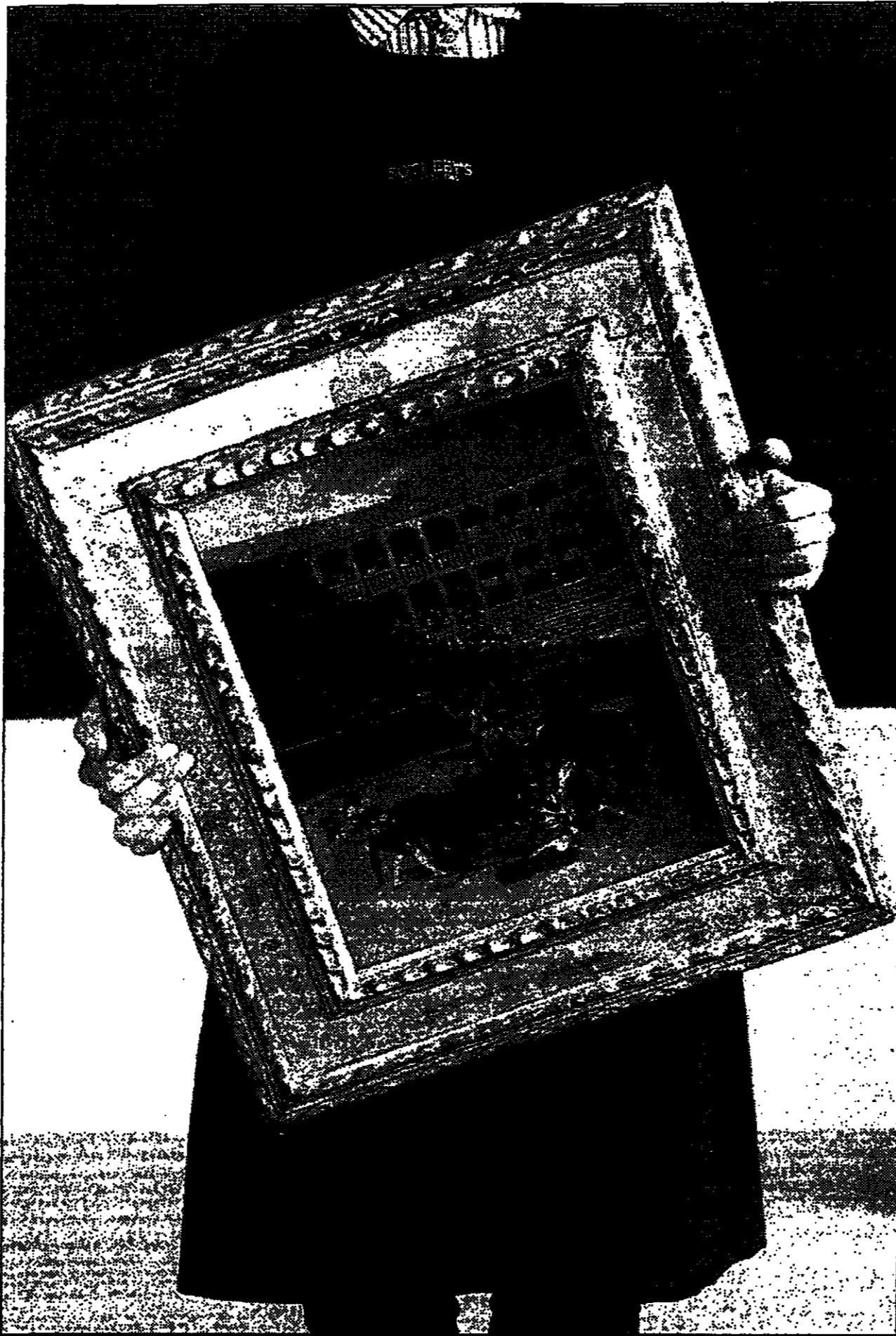
This latest sale means more than three-quarters of the holding will have been sold. Other works due to go on sale in three auctions in July include 23 Old Master paintings, mainly by 17th century Dutch and Flemish landscape painters, Greek, Roman and Egyptian antiquities, and a

12th century Limoges enamel casket. The three sales are expected to raise £10 million. Sotheby's, which advised the pension fund on the original acquisitions and has handled the subsequent sales, hopes *Death Of A Picador* will do as well as last year's Goya. "I hope the estimate is cautious," said Alexander Bell, Sotheby's head of Old Master paintings. "It's always difficult to know at this level. I hope that it does as well as the last one, which is not so obviously a Spanish painting. This is quintessential Goya because it is a bullfighting scene, that most dramatic moment when a picador is gored by a bull."

After some heady successes with its sales of Impressionists in the late 1980s, when a Renoir bought for £580,000 in 1976 was sold for £3.4 million in 1993, the fund's recent sales of Old Masters have shown what a precarious business investing in art can be. The last sale, in July 1995, proved a disappointment. It brought in £5.2 million, producing the equivalent of an annual rate of return of 0.73 per cent on the original investment. However, the previous sale, in December 1994, brought in £6.3 million from an investment of £620,000, an annual return of 5.02 per cent.

The worst area for the pension fund has been its sales of books and manuscripts. Old Masters, though, are good business at the moment.

"We've found that the Old Masters market has strengthened in the last 18 months," said Mr Bell. With this year marking the 250th anniversary of Goya's birth, and a huge Goya retrospective at the Prado museum, Madrid, the market for his work is probably at a peak.



Goya's *Death Of A Picador* which will be auctioned in London at Sotheby's

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Carey attacks 'prison works' policies

Archbishop issues blunt jails warning to Home Secretary

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THE Archbishop of Canterbury last night launched a devastating critique of the principles behind Michael Howard's "prison works" policy — and bluntly warned the Home Secretary: "If you treat people like animals, they will respond like animals."

Although George Carey, a former prison chaplain, made

a similar speech a year ago the language and tone of last night's sharp attack on Mr Howard's policy was far more direct and urgent.

In the Prison Reform Trust annual lecture last night, Dr Carey followed the convention of not naming the Home Secretary, but placed Mr Howard squarely in his sights when he warned that "present penal policy" was "weighted too heavily in favour of imprisonment to the detriment of those forms of

correction which, I firmly believe, offer more hope in the long term."

He praised recent striking improvements, including a marked reduction in smelly, insanitary and overcrowded conditions, but warned that what had been gained in the past two years was endangered by current penal policy.

He even went on to attack the language used by Home Office ministers in talking about crime: "The climate should be one where we love the sinner while hating and rejecting the sin. The climate should be one where we rise above the attitudes and vocabulary of revenge, war or

punishment for its own sake, and speak instead the language of justice dominated by the aim of restoring broken relationships."

The archbishop said the Prison Service faced a formidable triple challenge of a sharply rising prison population, a 13 per cent cut in costs over the next three years, and a new, intensified focus on security. "Any one of these challenges might be easier to absorb without the other two. The combination of all three is causing widespread apprehension."

It was outrageous that dangerous prisoners escaped from custody and people com-

mitted new offences while on temporary release, "but it does not follow that these concerns should dominate the overall climate in which the criminal justice system is working," he said.

He said the financial cuts, rising numbers and new security regimes tended to focus attention on the "impersonal fundamentals of the prison regime rather than the restoration of relationships which is the long-term purpose of the criminal justice system."

Dr Carey went on to make detailed criticisms of changes in the prison system, including "tragic and bad" cuts to the education budget; the

"widespread injustice" of the numbers held on remand; the "appalling burden on families" of most young offenders being held 100 miles from home; and damage to family relationships from the "considerable curtailment of home leave and temporary release".

Protecting the public from violent prisoners, satisfying the demands of deterrence and the repudiation of crime were all valid purposes of imprisonment, he said, but "one wonders how the protection of the public for the duration of a person's sentence can justify the huge numbers who shuffle in and out of the prison system today".

Virtual pets live virtual lives to the full



Norn, the 'virtual pet', which its creators claim is capable of 'breeding'

Jack Schofield on life on the Internet

ARTIFICIAL life will reach new heights in September when computer owners will not only be able to play with "virtual pets", they will be able to "breed" them as well.

Since "breeding" works as in real life, only with digital DNA, no one knows what might ultimately result. Stephen Grand, senior programmer on the project, admits: "We've no idea what we've started."

The "pets", furry, cartoon-like "virtual creatures" called norns, are said to be no harder to care for than hamsters, but cost nothing to feed and don't make a mess or smell. They will be distributed on floppy disk as "virtual eggs" for users to hatch and feed.

Norns are said to respond to being planned or tickled

and can even learn simple words. After six to 10 hours of computer time they reach adolescence and become interested in the opposite sex — which should result in the female producing an egg. But there's nothing salacious about their breeding. "They just kiss for a bit longer," says Mr Grand. "We have the Americans to consider."

The norns can also get drunk, or sick. They exhibit a range of groans and cries, shake or sneeze, and perhaps die. Toby Simpson — one of Mr Grand's colleagues at Millennium, the British firm developing the program — says: "If they're really ill, there's no reason why you shouldn't send them to us to look at, perhaps for a small fee."

Mr Simpson says people who use the program will

be able to exchange eggs or send creatures to one another over the Internet. "If you are going away you'll be able to send them on holiday," he says. The drawback is that other people "invariably teach them to swear."

Although "virtual pets" have a long history — Mindscape's *Dogz* is just the latest in a series that goes back through Activision's *Little Computer People* to abstract things called "cellular automata" — Millennium's creatures are far more complex than anything attempted before. They have a complete but simplified biochemistry, and you can even examine their brains to see neural patterns developing. This is of great interest to computer scientists trying to develop thinking machines.

Cyber-Fido: the benefits

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- No veterinary bills
- No pooper scoopers
- No saying sorry to postmen
- No need for air freshener
- No disappearance of food
- No bereaved children
- No chewed slippers
- No bones under the bed

Abductor sorry for boy's death

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

THE man accused of murdering nine-year-old Daniel Handley told the boy he was "sorry" as he helped to strangle him, a court heard yesterday. Jurors were shown a video of the man describing how he and a friend had abducted, sexually abused, killed and buried the boy.

Video recordings of Brett Tyler, aged 30, being interviewed by police in the Philippines and in England last year were shown at his trial at the Old Bailey. Tyler is pleading not guilty to murder. After Tyler had described on the video what had been done to the boy, some jury members became distressed and the court was adjourned briefly.

In the first recording, Tyler told two detectives how he and his friend, Timothy Morris, aged 33, took the boy from a street in Beckton, east London, after they had been driving around looking for boys, as they regularly did.

He said usually the hunt came to nothing. On this occasion, they had followed Daniel and pulled him into their car.

He said they took Daniel to a minicab office in south London and told him what they were going to do. Tyler said he had filmed Morris bugging the boy and then buggered him himself.

asked if he could get dressed and go home. He was taken to the car and the three of them drove towards Bristol.

Tyler explained in the video Daniel had fallen asleep in the car. Near Bristol they turned into a side road. "Tim said 'You know we have to do this' and I said 'Yes'," said Tyler. "I got into the back with Daniel. He woke up slightly and just asked if we were home yet. I said 'Not yet'." Morris had tied a rope round Daniel's neck with the knot at the throat, he said, and then told Tyler to pull one end of it.

"I said I couldn't. He said 'I'd got to, so I started pulling it. I kept telling him I was sorry until he was dead.'"

They drove to a golf course where they buried Daniel, returning later to make the hole deeper.

Both men fled to the Philippines but, after a week, he said he could not stand to be near Morris who had then left.

He had been told by telephone that Morris had been arrested in England and had tried to kill himself by taking large quantities of pills. He had also slashed his wrists and his elbow and tried to hang himself, he said during his recorded interviews.

Tyler later retracted his confession and denied murder but is pleading guilty to buggery and false imprisonment. Morris has admitted murdering Daniel on October 2, 1994, buggery and false imprisonment. The trial continues.

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Bullet surgery for girl in doubt

Chris Mills
Medical Correspondent

AN AFRICAN girl aged five, who was flown to Britain yesterday for an operation to remove a bullet lodged in her brain, will have to wait until at least the middle of next week to learn whether the procedure is feasible, doctors said.

Tenneh Cole, an orphan from Sierra Leone, was hit by a rifle bullet 16 months ago in fighting near her home. The bullet is trapped behind her right eye. She is thought to be almost totally deaf and has lost much of her sight.

She was brought to this country by the charity Hope and Homes for Children, set up by former colonial Mark Cook, who heard about her plight.

Doctors at the Norfolk and Norwich hospital offered to remove the bullet free of charge, if it could be done.

However, tests and scans to assess Tenneh's general health and the exact position of the bullet will not be carried out until the weekend.

Richard Beach, director of paediatric care at the hospital, said she would be assessed by an eye consultant, an ear, nose and throat consultant, a facial specialist and a neurologist.

"On Friday and over the weekend we will do detailed scans, and then probably in the middle of next week hold a meeting of the key specialists to decide what to do," Dr Beach said.

"We will have to strike a balance between leaving the bullet there, and trying to assess how much trouble it will cause if we do that, as against the risk of removing it, when everything has healed over the past 16 months.

"It could be that we would make things worse rather than better by attempting to remove it."

Facial surgeon Geoffrey Cheney said it was unusual but by no means uncommon for people to live normally with pieces of debris lodged in their heads.

"It was a problem many soldiers had faced, he said, but often people lived quite normal lives without ever having the debris removed.

Doctors in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, who examined Tenneh said she would die if the bullet was not removed.



Tenneh Cole with Caroline and Mark Cook, founders of Hope and Homes for Children, at Heathrow PHOTOGRAPH: TIM OCKENDEB

Voters blame ministers for beef crisis

Tory supporters a minority in directing anger at Europe

Martin Kettle

MORE than a month after the start of the beef crisis, the Government has failed to persuade the voters — as distinct from its own backbenchers — that the principal blame lies with the Europeans. Instead, a Guardian/ICM poll today finds that three out of five voters blame either the farmers or the Government for the continuing beef problem.

The poll, taken last weekend, showed most people laid the blame for the crisis at the Government's feet. Asked who was most to blame, 45 per cent said the Government, with only 18 per cent nominating the Europeans. Seventeen per cent blamed the farmers for the crisis, while one in five voters did not know who to blame.

Conservative voters followed the Government in concentrating their wrath on Europe, with 35 per cent blaming the European Union, 23 per cent the farmers and 20 per cent their own Government.

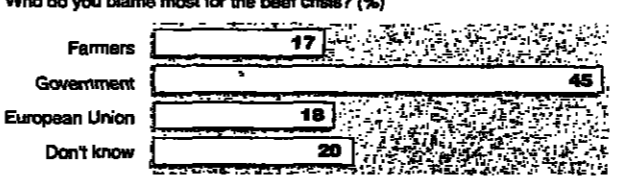
But the poll as a whole showed that the Government was in serious danger of talking only to its own supporters about the beef crisis. Tory voters were out of step with all other age, gender, class, regional and political support groups in the poll, all of whom put most of the blame on the Government.

Voters aged between 25 and 34, many of them presumably parents of small children, were especially critical of the Government: only 14 per cent blamed Europe, with 51 per cent pointing the finger at the Government.

The poll was not unmitigated bad news for the Government. The good news for them was that only a fifth of the population thought it had not responded decisively enough to the crisis. The measures it had taken to deal with the slump in confidence were either endorsed or regarded as excessive by a large majority of the electorate. Asked for their views of the government package, only 19 per cent said the measures did not go far enough. The rest were evenly divided between the 37 per cent who thought they were about right and the 34 per cent who thought they went too far.

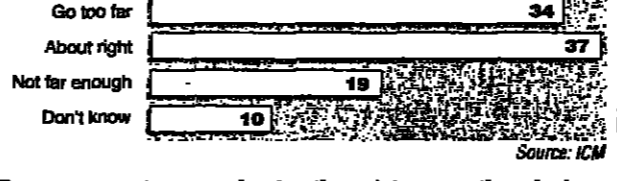
The beef crisis

Who's to blame?



Are we doing enough?

The government has banned certain parts of cattle from human consumption and is about to start culling cattle over 30 months old. To restore public confidence in beef products do you think these proposals go too far, not far enough or are they about right? (%)



Ten per cent were don't knows. Nearly twice as many Labour as Conservative voters — 24 per cent as against 13 per cent — believed that the package of measures did not go far enough. But even among Labour voters the most popular response was that the measures were about right. Such is the unpopularity of the Government, people seem disposed to blame it for the crisis, even though there was also general acceptance across the spectrum that there was no need to go much further with confidence-restoring measures.

PM undermines Forsyth appeal to 'sacred duty'

Tory confusion on Scots home rule

Erinod Clouston

THE Conservatives yesterday renewed their insistence that Labour should hold a referendum on Scottish devolution, while their own plans for an Edinburgh parliament were swathed in confusion.

On the opening day of the Tories' Scottish conference in Aberdeen, Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth told representatives they had a "sacred duty" to save Scotland from Labour's plans for a tax-raising legislature.

His appeal was part of an emotional attempt to reinforce the Caledonian credentials of the northern wing of the party, which opponents deride as an appendage to its English operation.

Citing high Tories Sir Walter Scott, nationalist John Buchanan and the 17th century Marquis of Montrose, he said "no one in this hall needs lessons in Scottish patriotism from parties which have just arrived on the scene".

The demand that Labour put its devolution plans before the Scottish electorate came during an attack on proposals which, Mr Forsyth said, would "destroy the United Kingdom and threaten Scotland's vital services".

Appearing under the slogan Fighting For Scotland, he said: "Why are they so afraid to put it to a referendum?" His comments echoed a similar demand from Sir Michael Hirst, chairman of a Scottish party which lags well behind Labour and Scottish Nationalists in the polls.

However, their protests were overshadowed by an apparent attempt by the Prime Minister to water down Mr Forsyth's warning last week that a parliament, once in place, could not be disestablished. "You can't make an omelette and then unscramble the eggs," he said.

Mr Major, due to appear in Aberdeen tomorrow, refused to be as categorical in a radio interview yesterday, saying only: "Parliament passes legislation; Parliament will have to decide whether it will undo it". He was cautiously backed by Sir Michael, who told a press conference that there would always be opposition to the principle of "driving a wedge into the United Kingdom".

The Conservatives' complaint reflects a growing sentiment north of the border, shared by at least two Labour MPs, that it would be unsafe to read the result of a general election as an endorsement for major constitutional upheaval.

An ICM poll in yesterday's Scotsman newspaper showed that 68 per cent of Scots, and a majority of every party's supporters, favour a referendum. This conjures up the nightmare for devolution supporters, of a re-run of the 1979 ballot which saw a narrow "yes" majority defeated because of the pre-condition that 40 per cent of the electorate should support home rule.

Mindful of this, Labour has ruled out a second referendum on Scottish home rule, but has indicated it will hold them on voting reform, a single European currency and the "silly English assemblies", as Mr Forsyth called them yesterday.



Michael Forsyth... said plans would 'destroy the UK'

Blair faces PR dilemma

Labour leader seeks to tackle party splits on Welsh devolution

Michael White

TONY Blair will today seek to smooth over deep divisions within the Labour movement in Wales over the shape of the devolution package which would be implemented by a Blair-led government and the controversial role within it of proportional representation.

When Tony Blair addresses his party's annual Welsh conference in Swansea he will praise the devolution document, preparing for a New Wales, which was published this week amid complaints from activists and the Liberal Democrats that all mention of PR had been excluded.

Unlike the debate in Scotland where a cross-party consensus has evolved, the Labour hierarchy in Wales has long been divided over devolution, with a hard core of MPs and activists as fundamentally opposed to it as they were when Neil Kinnock, then a backbencher, led the successful campaign against a Welsh assembly.

Even within the pro-assembly camp there are divisions between those who favour it having full legislative and tax-raising powers — like the planned Scottish assembly — and those against.

But the key question remains PR and the role it would play in reassuring voters in rural Wales that politi-

cal pluralism would be protected from domination by the entrenched city-based Labour machine.

PR has been fiercely resisted by the so-called "Taffia" — to the particular dismay of Liberal Democrats.

Some modernising Labour MPs believe Mr Blair would privately like to see a devolutionary convergence, whereby the Scots drop their tax-raising powers, on which John Major is scoring points, and the Welsh drop their opposition to a form of PR.

Both have been promised legislation in the first year of a Blair government. In practice, if Mr Blair needs Lib Dem votes to carry his bills, he will have to concede PR over the heads of local opposition.

MPs predict that today he will play for time and keep his options open.

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Patient Ugandans go to the polls

Voters pass verdict on 10 years of President Museveni, writes Chris McGreal in Nakaseke

QUERING patiently, Nakaseke's voters needed only to glance around if they required any reminder of what was at stake. The crumbling ruins of once precious homes were still dotted among reconstructed houses. A mass grave lay nearby. And behind the shuffling line of voters stood the village's administrative offices, its windows shattered from a war which ended a decade ago.

But for most of those voting in Nakaseke yesterday in Uganda's first presidential elections since 1990, the painful reminders of why they were there were carried in their hearts.

"So many terrible things happened but we have come home since [President Yoweri] Museveni took over," said Edward Mwanje, who described himself as a peasant. "We've stayed in our villages so peacefully. We are voting carefully so we shall not get any more problems."

President Museveni was seeking election for the first time since he seized power 10 years ago after a bloody civil war put an end to some of the most brutal regimes Africa has seen.

Mr Museveni's supporters see the election as confirming the legitimacy of a government that has transformed Uganda, bringing it relative peace and prosperity they

...fear others may squander. His opponents have portrayed the vote as an opportunity to depose a man they say is on the fast track to dictatorship.

People waited peacefully, often undeterred by rain. Some described voting as a duty. Others talked of it with excitement.

"It's very different this time," Mr Mwanje said. "We don't have any soldiers. We don't have any police with guns. Look, that policeman doesn't even have a stick in his hand. There is no fear. Now we are civilised I think."

There have been charges of electoral malpractice. The principal opposition candidate, Paul Ssemogerere, accused the president of deploying the army to intimidate opposition supporters and raised the spectre of warnings of violence if he lost. But hardly a soldier was to be seen yesterday.

Among the charges from Mr Museveni's camp was an accusation that its opponent has printed false banknotes to bribe voters. Mr Ssemogerere dismissed this. "How can an old man like me with children and grandchildren fake notes? I would have done that a long time ago when I was a youth. But now, impossible," he said.

Nakaseke sits within the Lowero triangle which suffered brutally as the long, murderous years of Milton

Obote, on the heels of Idi Amin, came to an end. Mr Museveni's insurgency was born in the triangle, and its people paid dearly as his successes grew.

Mr Museveni's victory was a liberation for most, and the relative peace and prosperity he has brought have left people like Charles Ssalongo Lugemusa — a poultry farmer whose family was murdered — wondering why anybody would vote for anyone else. "There were so many who died. It brings tears to my eyes just telling you about it," he said. "When I compare things now, I've been blessed to put up some businesses and so my opinion is that we should continue with Mr Museveni. If we don't vote carefully it could happen again."

Voting carefully is a euphemism among Mr Museveni's supporters for backing his call for no change.

The president's opponents say the elections were less than democratic because party political campaigning was banned. Candidates theoretically ran as individuals.

But Mr Museveni struck a nerve with his warnings that party politics could cost Uganda all it has achieved.

"We have had these parties and they are dangerous," said a teacher, Bamooza Kigosi. "They bring about divisions. You can chat about politics to a member of your family but once you join a party and someone else joins a different party, it means you are enemies. That is the implication. So I think we should keep things as they are. No change is better."



A Tamil couple return to their home in Jaffna, from which they fled during an army offensive against Tamil rebels in December. PHOTOGRAPH: DEXTER GUEZ

Eerie calm descends on war-ravaged Jaffna

PEACE has returned to the streets of Jaffna following the carnage of Sri Lanka's civil war, but they look unnaturally quiet for an Asian town.

"Where are all the people?" The government's

chief military spokesman, Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe, laughed. "They're in their homes," he said. "I don't know what you do in your country, but we like to stay indoors during the day."

With the strong sunshine beating down, he might be right. But of the official figure of 250,000 recently returned people — after two successful military offensives — only a few thousand were visible, most in a long queue for food. "We've been here nine hours," a Tamil woman said. "We came yesterday too, but they didn't have any rice, only flour and sugar."

Shops were closed and there was little traffic. A curfew imposed under the government's emergency laws came into force at 6pm, but this was mid-afternoon.

A family was travelling along the main road from Jaffna, their bullock cart piled with furniture and suitcases. Why had they come back to what is effectively a military occupation until a civil administration can be put in its place?

"The Tamil Tigers wanted us to go with them, to their jungle bases on the mainland, before the soldiers came. But we couldn't do that. I'm a poor farmer but I've got some land near Jaffna. I don't mind whether I live under army or Tamil Tiger control. I just want to cultivate the land and rebuild our lives."

It seems the urge to return home is stronger than loyalty to either side and the people are more than anything weary of being caught in a tug of war between the government and the Tigers. Those that had come back displayed a

white flag in front of their homes. "We're not interested in a Tamil homeland or separation or anything like that," another man said. "If the army can provide everything we need, we can live happily with them."

All traces of the Tamil Tigers' former administration were gone. The wooden placards, gaily painted with slogans and rebel gunmen proudly silhouetted against rainbow skies, had been shot to pieces. A bored government soldier on street patrol had been exercising his rifle on a two-dimensional enemy. The real Tamil Tigers had fled before the troops arrived to take the town last December.

Perhaps not all: two women said their relatives had been arrested by the security forces as suspected Tigers. "My two sons have been captured by the army."

They had nothing to do with the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam). But now I don't know where they've gone to," one said.

"I've got a letter asking for my son's release," the other said. "But every time I go to the police station they make some excuse and I have to go away again."

The government says that if rebels have infiltrated the civilian population they will be treated fairly, provided certain conditions are met. "One, give up the gun; two, change their attitude; three, change psychologically and join the mainstream. That's all we're asking," Brig Munasinghe said. But in a place held by the Tigers for six years it would be unusual for any family to be entirely free of separatist sympathisers; and for the government to gain real control of the people some of their demands will have to be met.

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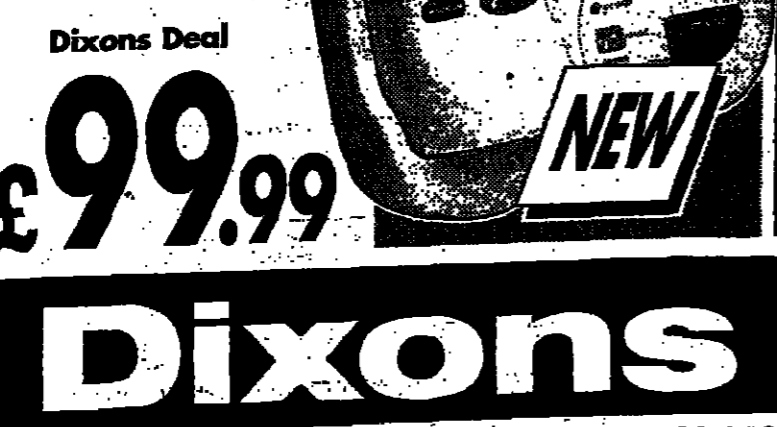


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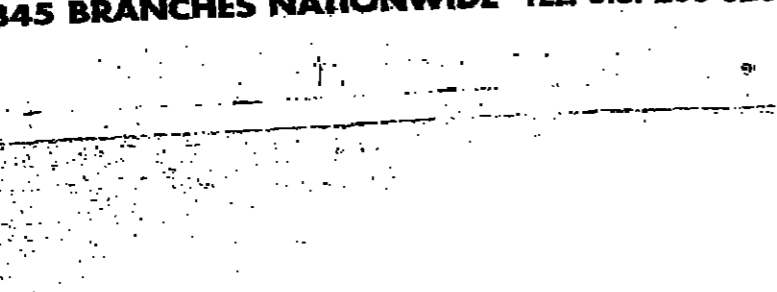


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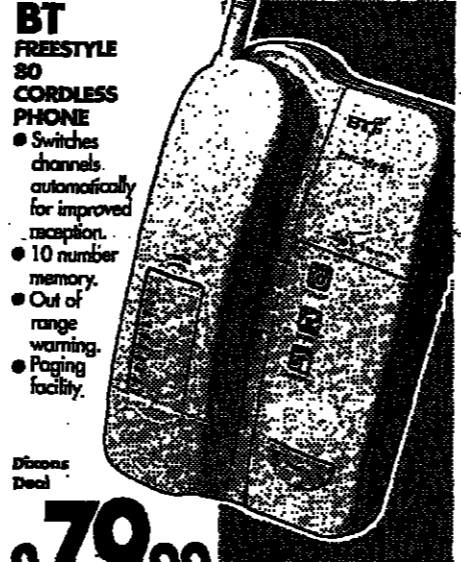
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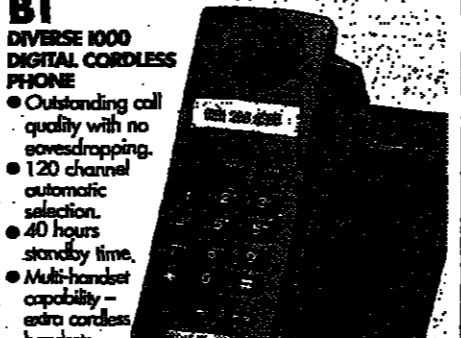
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De Klerk takes a risk in opposition

South Africa faces the danger of increased racial polarisation, writes David Beresford

THE National Party's decision to withdraw from South Africa's coalition government marks the beginning of a new political dispensation. But there are few signs that the dispensation will work, if it works at all.

The Nationalists' move has a logic which gives the lie to any talk of crisis. From the time they collected their joint Nobel peace prize, F.W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela have been the oddest of odd couples, locked in a marriage of convenience which was bound to fail in time. In the end, damaging speculation against the rand dictated the timing of the breach.

Superficially, the Nationalists gain from the move. Mr de Klerk's declaration yesterday that he was "raring to go as the leader of the opposition" sounded genuine and bears the hallmarks of a man when one considers the repeated humiliations he has suffered at the hands of the president.

It is well-timed for them. Mr de Klerk can now claim to have done his bit for national unity and, for all his complaints, he has come away from the transition with a constitution which can only be seen as advantageous to an opposition. But his prediction that the Nationalists would go on to become "the largest party in South Africa" is disingenuous.

Arguably the most serious mistake made by the Nationalists in the transition has been their failure to renounce, if not reincarnate, themselves. There is possibly room for some improvement in their existing support-base, among the Coloureds. Ironically, it is the "black tide" to which they once belonged and those whites who have satiated themselves with the novelty of voting for a black government.

But while the "Nats" have long boasted a formidable electioneering machine, their propaganda can be no match for the findings elicited by Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth Commission as it roams the country, hearing a

Overcrowded Somali boats capsize on Yemen crossing

Over 5,000 people have successfully completed the voyage since February. The journey from northern Somalia to Yemen takes about 48 hours.

AT LEAST 60 Somali refugees trying to escape the fighting in the capital, Mogadishu, have been drowned in the past few weeks while attempting the hazardous sea crossing to Yemen.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says the Somalis have been travelling in hopelessly overcrowded boats. Yemeni fishermen have told the UNHCR that bodies are regularly washed up on their shoreline.

In one incident, 125 Somalis were crammed on to a small fishing boat with a maximum capacity of 35. Surviving passengers say two died of thirst while still on board.

More were killed when the captain and crew pushed people overboard, telling them to swim nearby two miles to the Yemeni coast.

Eventually the captain agreed to take the boat closer

Complaint from Mr M M Lilley - Summary of adjudication

The Broadcasting Complaints Commission have upheld a complaint from Mr Mike Lilley about an edition of Kilroy broadcast on BBC1 on 24 March 1995. The programme, entitled Missing Mothers, focused on the problems faced by children whose mothers had left them. Mr Lilley, a single-parent father, and his three children were among the studio guests.

Mr Lilley said that he had been led to expect that the programme would be well-balanced and would give a positive picture of single-parent fathers. Instead, it had concentrated on the highly emotional testimony of women who had undergone considerable suffering, including abuse by fathers, as a result of their mothers having left them as children. This had caused Mr Lilley's children unnecessary trauma.

The BBC acknowledged that the programme had generated much more emotion than they had foreseen. They apologised for any unintentional distress which this might have caused Mr Lilley's children but denied that he had been misled.

In the Commission's view, the programme centred so strongly on the women's harrowing experiences as to be quite different from what Mr Lilley had been led to expect, and indeed caused his children unnecessary distress. They can well believe that he would not have agreed to their participation if he had known that it would turn out to be so upsetting. In all the circumstances, the Commission find that the programme was unfair to both him and his children.

You can get a copy of the full adjudication by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: The Broadcasting Complaints Commission, 5-8 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JS.

The corrupt core of a city
Westminster's guilt is the Government's as well

ALL OVER the world, rich cities beget dirty politics. From today Westminster is now a place to be spoken of in the same breath as Milan or Chicago. Covering the whole of the Monopoly board from Fleet Street to Mayfair, it is Britain's richest and highest profile local city council. In the 1960s it became a beacon of Thatcherism in a capital which was previously synonymous with British municipal socialism. To capture and retain Westminster became a task as important to the 1990s Conservative Party as holding Vinny Ridge was to the Allied generals of the first world war. No effort was too great, no gesture too shameless, to defend this symbolic citadel.

This was the all-consuming political contest within which Lady Porter and her allies set about ensuring that the Conservative flag continued to fly over Westminster at the height of the national revolt against the poll tax. Lady Porter had a direct line to the Prime Minister. Every advantage which Whitehall could contrive was placed at the service of the Tory group in Westminster. The rate support grant settlement was annually manipulated for the benefit of Lady Porter. The party's national local election effort focused almost wholly on her borough. It is hardly surprising, knowing the extent to which the nation's finances could be manipulated and the party mobilised for Westminster's benefit in the late 1980s, that Lady Porter and her colleagues were emboldened to think they could do no wrong.

The District Auditor's report which was published yesterday — after months of waiting it just happened to see daylight in the week following the English local elections — shows that Westminster ran up a bill of £31.7 million to maintain itself in power. Lady Porter yesterday dubbed the procedures which have been followed by

the Auditor as a kangaroo court, but they were in fact set up by the Thatcher government under the 1982 Local Government Finance Act as a means of calling "loony" Labour authorities to account. Long and winding though they be, the auditor has spent seven years probing the facts exhaustively. Having issued a set of preliminary findings in 1994, he has now reached his verdict on the objections which were raised in 1989 against Westminster's vote rigging housing policy. It amounts to probably the most shocking exposure of local government political corruption since the Poulson case nearly 30 years ago. The Westminster corruption case is just as emblematic of our era as Poulson's was of his, and in some ways with more justice, given the unique intimacy between the Thatcher government and the Porter regime.

The reaction of the Conservative Party yesterday was quite shameful. Yet again, the Prime Minister tried to deny any sort of responsibility for events which had unfolded entirely under and because of Conservative rule. As in the Scott debate and the beef crisis, he tried to imply that the real villains of the saga were the Labour Party. The Labour Party in local government are sometimes no angels, but this is an absolutely disgraceful trivialisation of a massive Conservative-instigated corruption which is without precedent in modern local government. It is scandalous for the Government to make no comment on such findings. Acceptance of that kind of personal responsibility used to be one of the great principles of Conservatism. This latest attempt to wriggle off that obligation, following so many others, says everything that needs to be said about why the Tory Party is no longer fit to govern and why voters, whenever they get the chance, are rightly determined to put an end to them.



Letters to the Editor

The price of growing old

FRANCINE STOCK (who will pay when we're old and grey, May 9) has Helen victim to the New Right's propaganda on population ageing and the ensuing "crisis" in the welfare state. A better perspective is provided by the Rowntree Foundation study, *The Future of Welfare*, published in 1993. This shows that, in 1991/1992, welfare spending (social security, education and health) was £2,240 per head of the whole population. Demographic change will require this figure to increase to £2,600 by 2041 (an increase of 17 per cent), assuming the structure of spending and the real value of benefits remain unchanged. In cash terms, this is an increase of £7 per year per head of the population. In percentage terms it is an increase of one-third of one per cent per year. This can scarcely be considered a crisis.

much more likely to be taken up than insurance. Julian Le Grand, Professor of Health Policy, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE.

THERE is no real case for ditching the welfare state based on the national-insurance model. Indeed, private insurance is often the more expensive option. The basic principle of insurance is spreading of risk, and no system of insurance can spread the risk wider than a system of national insurance. There is no question that the welfare state is expensive to run; but what really matters under any system is the total cost for a household due to both taxes and private insurance.

The advocates of compulsory private insurance as a replacement to existing welfare provision should be placed on the defensive. It is time they provided clear evidence that their proposals would be both cheaper and offer the same protection. Liz Lyne MP, Liberal Democrat Social Security Spokesperson, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

AS your leader column points out, Labour will now have to redefine poverty. What good a "partnership" between private and public finance if private finance is inefficient (it covers only those who choose to and can afford to buy it) and costly (it would cost a family an estimated £2,000 a month to cover all that has been, and is currently provided, by a cradle-to-the-grave welfare state)? It will be no good Labour getting people back to work if that work is so low-paid Labour will have to continue a subsidy in the form of Family Credit. The redistribution of wealth in the form of higher taxes for those on the top incomes and a minimum wage makes sense economically. A shift of just £16 billion of the £250 billion of profits, rent, and other income of the richest 5 or 10 per cent would rebuild essential services in health and education and fund pensions. Jill Mountford, Secretary, Welfare State Network, Camden People's Centre, 183 Queen's Crescent, London NW5 4DS.

Guardian poll on Europe finds all respondents in favour

YOU report opinion-poll data recording popular unease with the proposal for EMU (European single currency) opposed by 2 out of 3 Britons, May 9) and you advise a period of cautious inaction. But these popular opinions have been generated in a virtual intellectual vacuum. There has been no debate on Europe within the UK. All we have had is the Tory right-wing Euro-sceptical tall wagging virtually the entire party-political dog.

For the people of the UK the situation is clear. The political-cultural project of "Britain", fashioned in the late 18th century in the wake of the defeat in the American War of Independence and reaching an apogee in the years before the Great War, is now no longer relevant.

There is no plausible political-cultural future for the people of the UK which can be grasped by the notion of "Britain". Hence all the talk about Europe. It is the project of a united Europe which offers the people of the UK a chance to reinvent themselves and move forward. Britons will have to catch up with the mainland and this would entail democratisation, Europeanisation and economic modernisation. And here, it seems to me, is the root of the fears of the inhabitants of the Whitehall/Westminster village and the associated metropolitan chattering classes. The political-cultural resources of the project of "Britain", which is serviced and run by them, with its hierarchy, deference, anti-intellectualism and the whole sorry spread of political infantilism which substitutes for political discourse,

are irrelevant to any imaginable European future. But for the rest of us, Europe offers the chance of political movement, a chance to make new projects, and most of all a chance to reaffirm aspirations to political adulthood. (Dr) Peter W Preston, Department of Political Science, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT.

NEXT time you hold an opinion poll on the single European currency it might be worth asking the question: would you approve of a new Europe-wide currency if each country retained its own name for that currency? I suspect that the majority of those disapproving only disapprove because they prefer pounds to euros, irrespective of what they might be worth, and haven't given much thought to the wider issues. Colin Matthews, 3 Mancharia Road, London SW11 6AF.

SHOULD not the Guardian experiment with the kind of survey that is needed on technical issues of this kind? Why not, for example, publish courses a clear objective summary of the pros and cons as they stand at the moment and arrange to survey people who have read that summary? To be fair, you would need to give respondents the option of deferring a view until the time when government decisions are reached. Geoffrey Haines, 168a Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4JJ.

Resuming their separate ways

The National Party's withdrawal will strain the ANC to the limit

SOUTH AFRICA continues to live out the paradox of a country where success marches hand in hand with the threat of disaster. Both Nelson Mandela and his coalition partner (till now) F W de Klerk assert that the new constitution agreed on Tuesday marks the rebirth of the nation. It is an undoubted achievement, in the land of former apartheid, to have produced a document enshrining the basic freedoms for the future. Saved from a negotiating breakdown which would have plunged the country into crisis, the majority recorded by the Constitutional Assembly should have been a massive vote of confidence. Yet the markets were right to regard the attitude of the National Party as equivocal, and its decision yesterday to pull out of the coalition government also seems ambiguous.

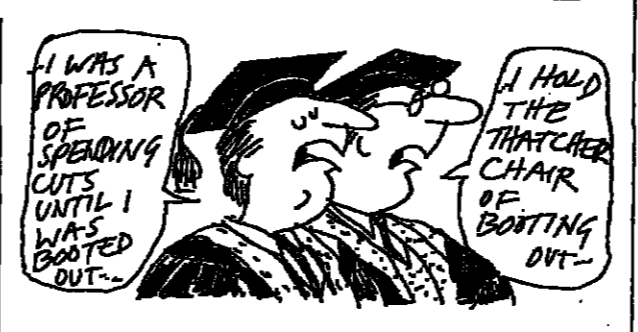
current provision for minority participation in the government no longer applies. Perhaps too Mr Mandela's tolerance has come to a natural end, and his attempt to seek consensus where it does not exist should give way to a more open acceptance of opposing interests. This seems sound enough in theory, but the National Party's decision can be viewed in a harsher light of reality. Mr De Klerk denies that his Party's withdrawal will have a significant effect upon the market — where recent political uncertainty has speeded the fall of the rand. Perhaps South African business and finance needs this sort of shock to become more "mature" as well, but it is a considerable risk. It is hard to believe that the National Party would have announced its withdrawal so soon if the final deal on the disputed provisions of the constitution had been more to its liking. The elections in 1999 are still a long way off. There is unhappily more time too for a National Party in opposition to invest contentious issues with a more transparently racial tinge.

Mr Mandela, having urged the National Party not to make the break, put the best face on it. An action which only hours before might have weakened the country would now, he insisted, strengthen it. Mr De Klerk was similarly positive in hailing it as an important step for "the normalisation of our young democracy". The argument is that the power-sharing arrangement up till now has become defunct with the constitutional agreement. Ending the coalition allows South African politics to enter a more "mature" stage where the majority party can rule while the minority plays a responsible opposition role. That is what will happen anyhow after the next election in 1999 when the

A more sceptical view of the withdrawal would be that by doing so the Party divests itself of responsibility for South Africa's difficult transition. If this is forced off the road — whether by a hostile market, or by Inkatha's sabotage, or by the boiling over of township frustrations — then the ANC is all alone. Mr Mandela's team will also need to show much greater "maturity" to survive the obstacles ahead.

A poor report

YOUR coverage of OFSTED's report on reading in inner-city schools (Shepherd attacks "trendy" teaching, May 9) included a list of "passages deleted from the final report". The implication is that the deletions were made to boost the critical tone of the report. The much more mundane truth is that they were cut in the interests of brevity and clarity. All the examples quoted failed to make the point of the report. The now famous first draft (a prolix 104 pages) to the final draft (a still generous 66 pages) either because their favour was well represented elsewhere or because they added little to the value of the report. Jonathan Lawson, Office for Standards in Education, Alexandra House, 33 Kingsway, London WC2B 6SE.



Maggie - out; Maggie - out

AS graduates of Brunel University, we are appalled at the decision to award an honorary degree to Margaret Thatcher. Lady Thatcher's term as Prime Minister was marked by constant academic and student opposition to her government's policy of endless cuts. Those of us who were students during this period can only recall with bitterness her Government's cavalier disregard for reasoned debates. We call upon the University to reconsider its ill-conceived decision to honour Lady Thatcher. It adds nothing to Brunel's reputation as a serious seat of learning. Peter Hunt, (Student 1985-1989, Senate Member 1988-1989.) Adrian Dingle, Russell Gill, Phill Cowley, Jim Kite, (Former SU presidents.) Andy Furlong, (Former deputy president.) and three others, 7 North Common, Redburn, Hertfordshire AL9 7DA.

Where good shares cost less

If you think Sainsburys is doing badly, look at manufacturing

YOU WOULD have thought that a certain company had gone to the check-out in the sky from all the publicity generated by its "slump" in profits. This event generated feature articles in most papers and even made the front page in some. This is unusual since after reporting a 12 per cent drop in profits it was still making £712 million. But this is no ordinary company: it is Sainsburys, which has become more of an icon than a brand in the way it has commanded customer loyalty and even pride. It became almost *de rigueur* for celebrities to prove their ordinariness — their middle-class ordinariness, that is — by boasting they even do their own shopping at Sainsburys as if there were nowhere else to go.

There is now. Tesco has overtaken it in size and other supermarket groups are sizing up. Sainsburys is being forced to eat humble pie (probably own brand) by adopting some of the techniques of its arch rival including loyalty discount cards. But make no mistake, this is not a battle between lame ducks. They are the two most successful UK companies in the most successful form of shopping ever devised where marketing techniques are so sophisticated they even program into their calculations the average number of times your eyes blink while in the store. Retailing has been one of the great growth sectors of the economy led by supermarkets. If the rest of UK industry were as good at marketing as the supermarket kings, then our economic prospects might be less dismal. Turn now to a set of statistics released yesterday. Manufacturing output rose by only 0.5 per cent during the past year. What's worse is that this may not be bad news because the annual growth in manufacturing output since 1973 has been only 0.3 per cent. Not very impressive. Even for a nation of shopkeepers.

Catholicism is a broad church

IT SEEMS Daphne McLeod and your other correspondents (Letters, May 9) were more concerned with institutional Roman Catholicism rather than the living, breathing apostolic Catholicism which most of us belong to. The vast majority of Catholics reject, by their practice, much of the moral teaching of the Catholic Church, the majority of our churches are only half full or half empty, depending on your point of view. This, it seems, has escaped your correspondents. Their absolute certainty denies the pilgrim nature of our church and in the end is an illusion. Peter Richardson, 25 Richmond Avenue, Chadderton, Oldham OL9 8LQ.

AS TO the complaint at the end of the article (Storm in the cathedral, May 9) — the archdiocese of Liverpool still lacks a leader after a 15-month vacancy — I note there is universal silence. What shepherd would leave a valued flock untended for so long? John Skinner, Apple Cottage, Ash Thomas, Tiverton, Devon EX16 4NS.

I WAS pleased that Catherine (Letter, May 9) was found not guilty, but confess to some confusion over her invitation to sing "Jesus never fails". Does this mean the jury can be disregarded as the outcome is beyond doubt? Pete Snaden, 253 Ashley Down Road, Bristol BS7 9BW.

A tax return from the Revenue

THERE has been no tax "amnesty" for MPs' car allowances (Tax break for Tory MPs, May 7). The former member of the Inland Revenue who asserted some kind of favourable treatment would not have known the facts from his official duties, and has got them wrong. The Inland Revenue sought more tax from some MPs than the MPs felt they were due in law to pay. The disagreement was about the application of a statutory tax relief to their mileage allowances. The independent appeal commissioners. The appeal commissioner decided MPs were entitled to the relief.

At no stage did ministers try to discourage the Inland Revenue from seeking tax we believed was due. On the contrary, MPs and ministers observed scrupulously the Inland Revenue's independence from MPs on the handling of individuals' tax affairs. Theresa Middleton, Press Secretary, Inland Revenue, North West Wing, Bush House, London WC2B 4PP.

A Country Diary

GLoucestershire: Here's a story of success on the ovine front. When young Bess, a two-year-old Herdwick shearling, was born in April '94 she was rejected by her mother, Hermione, who was herself lambing at one-year-old and exhibited an element of the irresponsibility of the teenage bride. She tossed her lamb in the air, stalked off, and gave us weeks of bottle feeding. Close confinement and all the other strategies failed and Bess grew up never knowing the care of a loving mother. Her little friend Porgy, an orphan ram lamb, died of blast. This spring she was clearly in lamb and we wondered, given her own sad experience, how she would make out as a mother. It nearly started in disaster. We were fortunate to be at home when she showed the water-bag that prefaces the birth of a lamb but, when she made no progress after some hours, our friendly local veterinarian was called. He did a copiously lubricated pull-out job of little Lizzie which avoided what appeared to be going to

Please include a full postal address and a telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

end up as an expensive caesarian section. How would she respond to her newborn lamb? We watched with some anxiety because of the trauma of her difficult birth. They were kept closely penned for the first two nights and normal maternal instincts began to show. Bess fed her lamb and, as spring sunshine warmed the pasture, was able to take her out in the company of the flock and show her off. All was not, however, plain sailing. Perhaps because of her long-lasting antibodies, necessarily given after an assisted lambing, had some effect on her milk supply, she was clearly not giving her lamb all the sustenance it needed. A small bottle of artificial ewe's milk, boosted with glucose, proved necessary. But we now seem to be over the worst. Lizzie joins in the afternoon races with the other lambs in late afternoon and, although Bess may have reproached her memories about her own experience, she is not inflicting the same neglect on her lamb. COLIN LUCKHURST

Appa/10/96

Diary Matthew Norman

AFRODEUR (or brofuz, to use the technical Yiddish term) has developed between the Diary and Mandy Mandelson. What caused it. I have no idea...

NO such amnesia afflicts Tory MP Sir Anthony Grant. He has recorded £13,000 in income from insurance firm Bowring Marsh and McLennan...

LOOK forward to Fay Weldon's critique of the new Jeffrey Archer in the Sunday Times, the paper with its own official code to ensure objectivity among book reviewers...

WHAT a swell party it will be tonight when Gentleman Charlie Wilson opens his gracious Kensington home to survivors of his Independent editorship...

WARM congrats, meanwhile, to Charlie's boss David Montgomery for the fantastic scoop in yesterday's Mirror. The paper snapped its recent libel combatsant Rupert Allason...

IN today's reading from Major, Major (Memories Of An Older Brother), we find Terry Major-Bell returned from National Service...

CORNISH china firm J&S Chown has a new commemorative mug. On one side it shows Charles and Diana looking away from each other...



Beware the turning tide of freedom

Commentary Peter Preston

IT was the perfect British definition of a non-event: the World Press Freedom Day, virtually unmentioned in any newspaper near you...

Hundreds of struggling papers across the breadth of the Russian Federation, the detritus of the Soviet Empire, across Africa and South America, weren't so heedless...

other non-event. I have the library file on the Council open in front of me. Nobody writes much about its deliberations any longer...

When Russia got its Council place a few months ago, Hugo Young took a cleaver to Malcolm Rifkind's cynicism...

What has President Tudman been doing these last few weeks as his Strauborg ticket went through the system? He has seen one paper fined a ludicrous, crippling £1 million for supposed customs evasions...

abolishing Zagreb city council too. The use of "economic" or "environmental" inspectors against the press is standard stuff...

Perhaps the fatal cop-out was admitting a Russia where the rule of law is as yet vestigial. But one wessal argument goes with another...

France and Germany and Britain ever combine to suspend Russian membership? If that is pragmatically unthinkable, can smaller nations behaving badly...

Strasbourg this summer to discuss "rules on the printing and circulation of newspapers" and "rules on access to the journalistic profession"...

Press freedom isn't special. It is merely one essential of your freedom of choice. It is not to be shot in the head, or doused by official decree...

children - I am prepared to persuade him, with a little gentle coercion, that work is better than inactivity. But the process will take time. And that is the single mother, the disabled, pensioners as well as the pathologically incapable...

Jack and John discover the magic of hugs



Bel Littlejohn

DEEP breath. And out. Once more. Deep breath. And out. Himm. Relax. There! Feels better already. You're not looking your best. Are you feeling terribly depressed?

With a bold group of other warmhearted women including the lovely Carmen (Calli) and Pat (Bewitt), I am a founder member of Antidote, the organisation that is determined to make our elected politicians get in touch with their deeper feelings...

FIRST up at the Orbach session was Jack Straw. He didn't let me down. I was so proud of him. He sat there on the floor in his new fleegood stripey cravat while Susie and I placed our arms around him and squeezed and pummeled ("Let that pain out, Jack!")...



It won't go away

Chris Smith's welfare plans are fine in the long-term, argues Roy Hattersley, but the poor still need help now. And to pay for it? Higher tax is an option

DO not believe that, in the words of the Guardian headline, we are witnessing "the end of the welfare state". In Chris Smith's Tuesday lecture...

work for 10 years that he must "abandon the assumption that the state is the best provider". If, as Smith hopes, "each man and woman [is to be] assured of sufficient income for honourable subsistence..."

about whether the transition from war to peacetime economy helped or hindered Attlee in reducing unemployment to so low a figure. It is, however, certain that what old Labour achieved in 1945 will be almost impossible for New Labour to repeat in 1997...

Just as important, the psychology of unemployment has changed at least for many of the men and women who, as Chris Smith rightly says, have been demeaned by a lifetime of welfare dependency...

Electoral Reform Society and Democratic Left present a Voting Reform Group event... CAUSING A STORM FOR REFORM. SPEAKER: DAVID MARQUAND. Followed by panel discussion on campaigning for change with Charles Kennedy MP (Liberal Democrat), Sir David Haughey MP (Conservative), Tony Wright MP (Labour), Uta Bullmann (Friends of the Earth), Lindsay Cooles (Charter 88), and Jean Lambert (Green Party)...

Sir Howard Smith

Out of the fog of paranoia

SIR HOWARD Smith, who has died aged 76, was appointed head of MI5 by Lord Callaghan...

Labour ministers, as MI5's director-general, MI5 was furious. "I was quite unhappy with the way in which Howard Smith took before he left Moscow...

Soviet foreign minister, at the time were quite good and therefore I proposed to Howard Smith that before he left Moscow he should see Gromyko...



Smith... Moscow to MI5

Smith, who was born in Brighton, came from a relatively impoverished background; his father was a hard-up schoolmaster...

After the war, Smith joined the Foreign Office. In 1953 he began to specialise in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe...

Stanley Reed

Bringing film to the people

STANLEY Reed, director of the British Film Institute from 1964 and 1972, was a man with a heroic commitment to cinema...

strip of film, as well as inspiring them with the images on the screen. At the same time he was instrumental in establishing the Experimental Film Fund...



Reed... film and education

He went on to give no less anxiety to the conservative staff of the College of St Mark and St John, Chelsea. There he studied for English honours and a teaching certificate...

He lectured tirelessly around the country, making "film appreciation a recognised school discipline. A brilliant communicator, he could thrill school children with the physical quality of a

Luis Miguel Domínguez

The strain of number one

AT THE END of a triumphant appearance in Madrid's Monumental bullring, the matador Luis Miguel Domínguez, who has died aged 69...

In his 1950s heyday Domínguez shocked Franco's staid regime while serving as one of its brightest stars; a rare glamorous figure in a country ostracised abroad...



The spoils... Domínguez holds aloft the bull's ears, presented for an exceptional performance at his 1971 comeback

Domínguez, who had been a friend of Pablo Picasso, the poet Rafael Alberti and other left-wingers, but who also consorted with General Franco, ended his life in bitter isolation...

Domínguez was born in Madrid and his father and brothers were matadors. Aged 12 he was fighting cows and a year later he became an apprentice bullfighter.

when he should already have stepped aside. In 1964 Domínguez married Lucía Rosé, with whom he had three children, Miguel, Lucia and Paola. In 1968, the couple separated...

and Domínguez later said she was the only woman who did not remain a friend. He retired in 1960, taking up business interests, travelling and spending time in his Andalusian estate.

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Letters: William Colby and Helene Cordet

Bob Davies writes: Martin Walker's obituary seems to portray William Colby (obituary, May 7) as a worthy candidate for New Labour.

and Vietnam etc). Again dozens of students were brutally killed, but these were tiny numbers compared with the hundreds of thousands of largely innocent peasants reputedly killed in Operation Phoenix...

Siene Commons writes: I was interested to read John Cordet's obituary of Helene Cordet (obituary, May 3) and the two passing references to her daughter. Could this be Louise Cordet who knocked my socks off with two very sexy pop records circa 1963?

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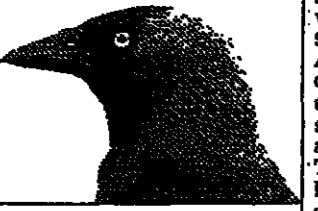
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Jackdaw



Snails Delight

Sean French tried the uncommon delight of preparing English garden snails to eat. After feeding them on carrot for a week until their shells turned orange, he tried feeding them to his family...

doesn't feel very well and isn't going to have any snails at all, says Child F says she wants a biscuit. Child E says she will try some of the sauce. And the bread. After much agonising, child C consents to eat one snail...

Hot choice

Spill for choice on who to worship? Do you fear that when the Day of Judgment comes, you might have chosen wrong, and are therefore damned forever? Well, fear not. The Process Church of the Final Judgment provides the answer in Vibe magazine.

In an oversimplified nutshell, the long-haired, black-robed followers of the Process Church believe in the reconciliation of opposites - Jehovah at one extreme and Satan at the other, with Jesus as the balancing force in between.

Irish bet

The Irish World gives us news on how to get a better bet on the lottery. Over 200,000 people per week

are taking small bets on the results of the Irish lottery with bookmaker Ladbrokes. The twice weekly bets allow punters the chance to win up to £100,000 if they pick the correct lotto numbers and 25 if they get just one number right.

Hiya Lassies

"Let us see... Party Chicks, Straight Pegs, Skankers or Hounds, that's the four types of girl you can be on the results of the Irish lottery with bookmaker Ladbrokes.

shag anything and are often alcoholics. Hiya Lassies are so called because they always say hi-ya-uh... when they meet you." Ally on women, in Irvine Welsh's book Ecstasy reviewed in The Face

Hot cow

Christopher Fildes updates his idea that cows could provide energy whilst being burnt, in The Spectator. The plan for cow-powered

electricity seems to have been anticipated by the French inventor Alphonse Allais. His self-propelled Necromobile, so I am told, combined the functions of a crematorium and a hearth. In this way the dear departed would provide sufficient fuel to drive the vehicle forward at a suitably funereal pace.

Cow mad

Nicki Bayley grills Eddie Izard on his new sitcom, The Cows, which he will not be appearing in, due to the stars being... cows! Comedy Review "It's going to be Planet of the Apes meets The Simpsons, but the Planet of the Apes characters are going to be cows."

gaw, industrialist and farmer, 62; Sir David Orr, chancellor, Queen's University, Belfast, 74; Peter Prince, writer, 54; Bruce Raymond, jockey, 53; Marnel Santana, tennis player, 55; Michael Shea, writer, former press secretary to the Queen, 52; Barbara Taylor Bradford, author, 63; Sir Denis Thatcher, 81; Sir Duncan Watson, former president, World Blind Union, 70; Bert Weedon, guitarist, 76.

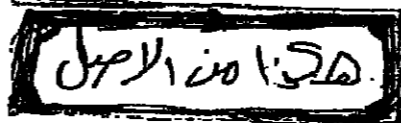
Death Notices MELLIBY, Albert Nelson, announced May 7 1996, son of William and Elizabeth Melliby, of 12, West Hill, London NW10 7JL. He will take place at St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square at 12.00 on Tuesday May 21st 1996.

Memorial Services MORGAN, Mervyn A Service of thanksgiving for the life of Mervyn A Morgan will take place at St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square at 12.00 on Tuesday May 21st 1996.

Raiders zap

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4966; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield



Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Labour attacks Trade Secretary for failing to deliver guidelines on electricity sector takeover bids

Lang accused of muddle

Nicholas Bamister
Technology Editor

THE Trade and Industry Secretary Ian Lang yesterday delivered a vigorous defence of his decisions on takeovers of privatised utilities but failed to lay down clear guidelines on what bids would be allowed.

Mr Lang used a keynote speech at an Adam Smith Institute conference on the utilities to counter increasing political pressure over his attitude towards utility takeovers.

However shadow energy secretary John Battle claimed later that the minister had done nothing to settle the confusion in the electricity sector. "The Government is presiding over an *ad hoc*

restructuring of the electricity industry in which consumers are barely an afterthought... There is still no sign of a strategy."

Mr Lang, who waved through a host of bids which substantially changed the structure of the water and electricity industries before blocking others recently, justified his position by saying that the former state monopolies were still in the "transitional phase" of the move to fully competitive markets.

He pointed to the growth of competition in the telecoms industry, with more than 100 new licences granted since the British Telecom/Mercury duopoly was ended in 1991.

Notebook

Sceptics threaten City dominance



Edited by Alex Brummer

THERE has been so much focus of late on deals within our own financial sector that it would be easy to miss the broader changes across the European union.

right, in the shape of John Redwood and Norman Lamont, and caved in. Similarly, there are good strategic reasons why the Government should hang on to its golden shares in the power generators, but they have much more to do with the UK's energy security than with competition policy.

It is all very well for Mr Lang to argue that the UK is interested in price competition rather than national champions and that this has been a key feature of privatisation policy. But those privatisations which have worked best are precisely those which have resulted in national champions.

BA has all but mopped up many of our competitors from British Caledonian to Dan Air; BT still has some 90 per cent of the UK telecoms market and British Steel is a dominant player in the European sector.

Privatisation may have made these companies more efficient, but they are still effectively national champions.

In the power sector, the UK is developing the worst of all worlds. In the case of Scottish Power, the authorities have allowed vertical integration in this case with Manweb despite allegedly opposing it.

The idea that US utilities, with their considerable problems, will bring new efficiencies to the UK electricity market and also bring prices down is another distortion.

The US utilities see the UK as a loosely regulated system which has been biased towards management and owners rather than consumers — and a market where electricity prices are higher and profits can be maximised with impunity.

Under the ownership structure being commanded by Mr Lang, prices are likely to fall far more slowly than if we had UK-owned electricity distributors disciplined by a durable regulator.

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Job cuts to mean bigger dividends as takeover savings are found

Nicholas Bamister
Technology Editor

SCOTTISH Power yesterday promised its shareholders bigger dividends after it disclosed that job cuts and restructuring at newly acquired Manweb had resulted in greater than expected savings.

Rand retreat

WIDESPREAD hopes that the South African model of market orientated economic policies would be a boon for the whole of southern Africa will be blunted by the latest extraordinary political developments.

The view on the financial markets has been that the presence of the National Party, with its greater business experience, in the coalition has meant that the country would pursue relatively cautious monetary and fiscal policies. Without it, there is concern that policy may go awry.

This has resulted in the stock market going into freefall, while bond prices have plummeted, pushing the benchmark yield to 16.83 per cent and the rand is in severe retreat.

The authorities, which last increased interest rates to 16 per cent on April 29, are now under pressure to repeat the exercise and restore confidence. That may help the financial markets, but yesterday's developments are a severe blow to the real economy and reform.

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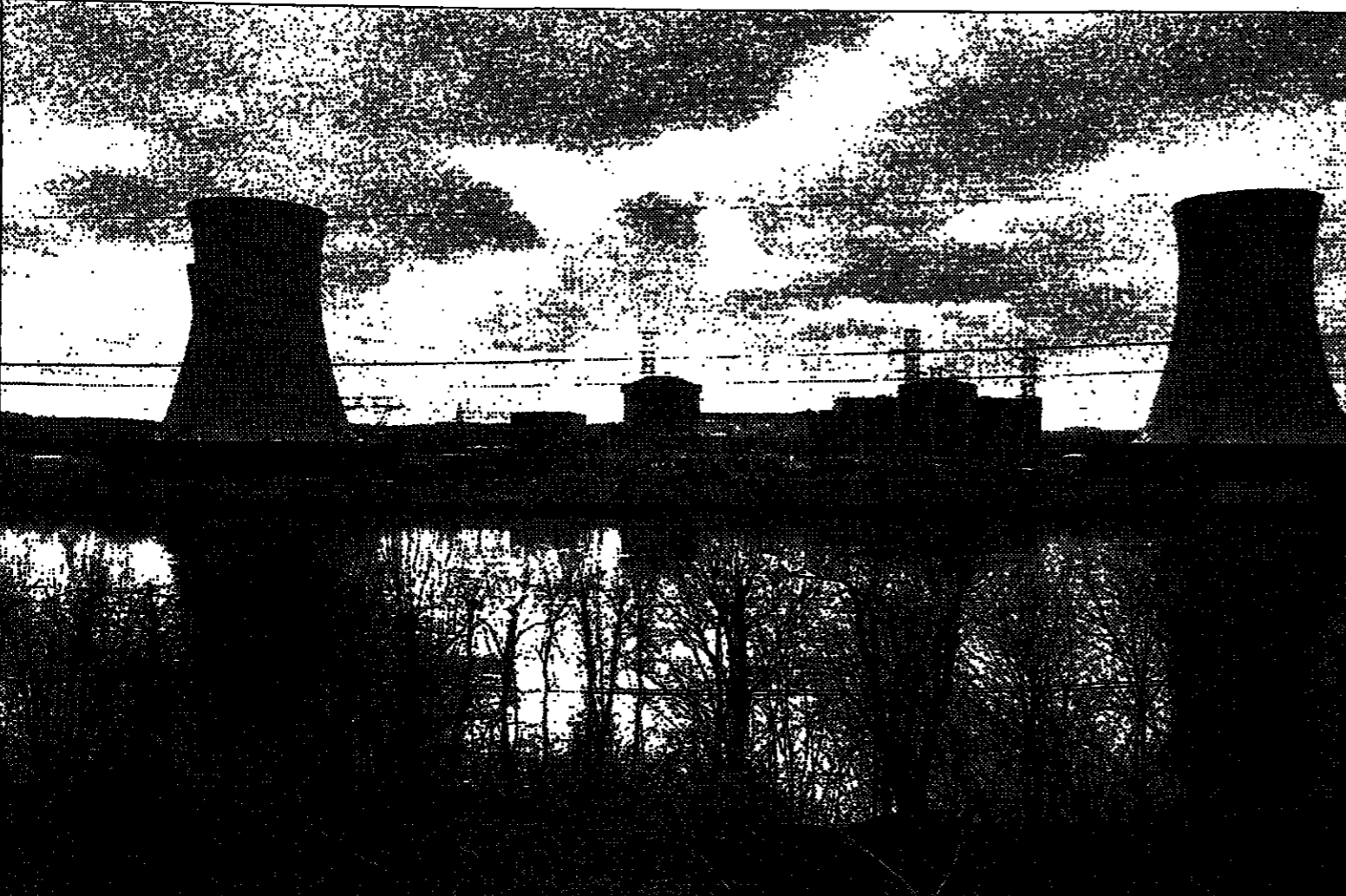
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Hot property... Legal fallout from the Three Mile Island disaster still haunts GPU, a partner in the Midlands Electricity deal PHOTOGRAPH BY DENIS THORPE

US predators become a power in the land

Gregory Palast on the motives of utilities targeting UK

TWO American utilities which have announced a £1.73 billion agreement to buy Midlands Electricity have a history of losing costly battles with US regulators and consumer organisations.

late that the company values these assets at \$1.5 billion (£1 billion) above market value.

Next month, GPU must face a civil suit brought by neighbours of the Three Mile Island plant who claim their cancers stem from 1979.

GPU's 50 per cent partner in the Midlands deal, CINERGY Corporation of Ohio, has been ordered by regulators and courts to refund to customers and write-off a total of \$366 million in the last two years, penalties for poorly managed plant construction programs.

Houston Industries, much-rumoured as a competing bidder for Midlands or London Electricity, is now refunding \$257 million to customers to compensate for the safety-related shutdown of its South Texas nuclear plant, Houston, which last year failed in a bid for Norweb, faces potentially huge losses under the new US competition rules.

Raiders zap Sony's video game battle base

Kevin Rafferty in Tokyo

JAPANESE anti-monopoly officials raided the headquarters of Sony Corporation's video game unit yesterday.

that you will lose your core business to the lower-cost operators," said Mr Friedman.

Moody's analyst Paul Fremont says American companies find in the UK "a quick return at low risk", because Britain offers foreigners the rare chance to buy pure monopolies in power distribution not available in the US. He does not believe the Government's plan for electricity competition in 1998 will affect the monopoly sought by the Americans.

Ohio state government's effort to save CINERGY from insolvency in the 1980s. He questions the utility's management philosophy. "Rather than fix their problems, they only tried to get taxpayers and customers to bail them out. They acted like politicians instead of managers," with a penchant for seeking government subsidies he believes remains today.

Entrepreneur sells 1,410 pubs in push for quality

Roger Cowe

ENTREPRENEUR, the joint venture between Grand Metropolitan and the Australian company, Foster's Brewing Group, has sold a further 1,410 pubs for £262 million, reducing its estate to just under 3,000.

These pubs are another step in focusing Entrepreneur as a quality pub estate.

The latest batch of pubs to be sold has been transferred to a company called Spring Inns, which is 99 per cent owned by insurer Guardian Royal Exchange. Foster's and GrandMet own the remaining 2 per cent of the shares.

Spring Inns is only a temporary home for the batch of pubs. A buyer or buyers will now be sought, preferably for the whole estate although a single buyer is thought unlikely. Offers from individual Entrepreneur leaseholders will also be considered.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.84	France 7.54	Italy 2.324	Singapore 2.850
Austria 15.72	Germany 2.230	Japan 0.570	South Africa 6.54
Belgium 45.89	Greece 359.00	Netherlands 2.50	Spain 186.00
Canada 2.0250	Hong Kong 11.46	New Zealand 2.15	Sweden 70.20
Cyprus 0.6295	India 52.38	Norway 9.70	Switzerland 120
Denmark 8.98	Ireland 0.9375	Portugal 22.60	Turkey 110.782
Finland 7.14	Israel 4.92	Saudi Arabia 5.57	USA 1.4850

Supplied by National Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).





Long haul... A 72ft limousine which seats 38 people and bends in the middle for cornering has been completed by Ultra Kustom Coach of California. It was ordered by Sheikh Hamad Bin Hamdan Al-Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates to transport him and his entourage during visits to the United States. It cost \$1.2 million and will be available for rent when not in use by the sheik

Retail sector reports new rush in high streets but tempo on production lines slows

Easter shopping spree revives hopes that recovery is in store

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

AN EASTER shopping spree gave a fresh boost to Britain's high streets last month, rekindling hopes of a consumer-led economic revival during 1996, a survey published today shows.

Retailers enjoyed their busiest month for more than two years in April, according to the Confederation of British Industry's latest snap-shot of shops and stores — easing fears that the new year pick-up in high street activity is running out of steam.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's Distributive Trades Panel, hailed the fig-

ures. "It is encouraging that the increases in sales volumes in March were carried through into April," he said.

Responding to the CBI's monthly poll of 15,000 shops and stores, 49 per cent of high street outlets said trade was brisker last month than in the same period last year, compared with 17 per cent reporting that sales had dropped.

The gap of 32 percentage points between these two figures was sharply up on the 27-point difference reported in March — and the highest since December 1993, the CBI said.

Mr Eperon said the high street pick-up was set to continue, but warned that predictions by shops that sales would rise sharply in the

spring might prove to be over-optimistic.

"Retailers are confident sales trade will pick up further in May, but the experience of the last two months suggests the pace of growth may be more modest than they currently expect," he said.

The retailers' positive outlook is good news, however, for suppliers, who saw the volume of orders placed rise to its highest level since the end of 1993. Wholesalers also reported a sharp pick-up in sales.

Only motor traders said it was a gloomy month, with respondents saying that sales were flat in April after steady growth in the first three months of the year — despite

upbeat figures for car sales published last week.

The CBI said the recovery in vehicle sales was erratic and anecdotal evidence suggests that car sales varied by region, so that some areas could be accounting for most of the sales, leaving other parts of the country in the doldrums.

On the high street, clothing and footwear stores saw a marked pick-up in business in April as consumers flocked to buy warm-weather clothes. Off-licences benefited from growing demand for cool drinks, while book shops and stationers recorded weaker growth in sales.

Household-related spending also jumped, with furniture and carpet shops, along with

hardware, china and DIY stores, recording a bumper month, according to the CBI survey.

A CBI economist said that although people might not be ready to move house, some families could be investing in existing property — possibly with an eye to a future sale.

Figures from the Department of the Environment published yesterday confirmed that higher house prices had not yet pushed up the rate of house-building. In March construction began on 14,800 houses, against 16,300 in the same month last year.

Housing starts in the first quarter of 1996 were unchanged on the preceding three months, while completions dropped by 5 per cent.

Factory figures 'show need for rate cut'

Sarah Ryle

PRESSURE on Chancellor Kenneth Clarke to revive the flagging factory sector with an interest rate cut strengthened last night as official figures showed that manufacturing has slid into recession.

Manufacturing output fell by 0.2 per cent in the three months to March, dragging down the performance of the industrial sector as a whole.

Most of headline increase

— also 0.2 per cent — was in the electricity, gas and water industries, where Government officials and City analysts said, the unusually cold start to the year boosted demand.

The Office for National Statistics, which published the March production data yesterday, estimated that total industrial output would remain flat in the coming months.

Despite a rise — again of 0.2 per cent — in manufacturing output in March against

February, the three-monthly figure was regarded by officials as more reliable. The quarterly fall was the second in a row, provoking City warnings that recent optimism about Britain's economic performance was premature.

HSBC economist Ian Shepherdson said: "Looking ahead, recent survey evidence points to stagnation at best, with a real chance of further falls in output as firms run down their excess stocks. This performance is not good

enough for the Government. It points to increased pressure for lower rates."

Nikko economist Simon Briscoe said: "An increasingly strong case can be put that the economy is in danger of drifting back into recession. If the recovery fails to take hold, rates will be cut."

There were signs that factories have been reducing their excess stocks in the first three months of the year more quickly than officials had anticipated, so that demand was being met from

over-full shelves rather than from production lines.

An improvement in demand for consumer goods — further evidence of the two-sided story of the economy's health — was reported. Durable goods, which include televisions and cars, rose by 1.7 per cent in the three months to March. But this category accounts for only 6 per cent of the overall manufacturing sector. This was pulled down by falls in capital and intermediate goods.

Belgians seek Dassault boss over bribery allegations

Julie Wolf in Brussels

THE Belgium authorities have issued an international arrest warrant for Serge Dassault, head of the French defence group, and the latest prominent figure to become embroiled in the country's long-running corruption scandal.

Belgian judicial sources said yesterday that evidence from Switzerland had led them to put out the warrant for Mr Dassault.

This latest move follows a Belgian parliamentary report last year that linked the Dassault group with a scandal involving payments to the Flemish Socialist Party in exchange for defence contracts. The scandal rocked Belgium's political establishment and led to a number of ministerial resignations.

The parliament heard allegations that Mr Dassault paid bribes of Fr10 million (€1.3 million) when Dassault Electronic secured a contract in 1989 to equip Belgian fighter planes with a sophisticated electronic system.

Mr Dassault, honorary chairman of the electronics company and chairman of Dassault Aviation, has consistently denied the allegations.

The Belgian parliamentary report also prompted the resignation of Willy Claes from his post as NATO secretary-general. Mr Claes, a Flemish socialist, was economic minister at the time the Dassault payments are said to have taken place.

The report also linked Mr Claes with alleged payments by Italian helicopter maker Agusta to the Flemish socialists in exchange for a military contract.

Mr Dassault yesterday denied involvement in the scandal and said that, fearing he might be put in jail, he had refused a request to answer questions in a Belgian court two weeks ago.

A series of bribery scandals in recent years have claimed the careers of more than half a dozen prominent Flemish and French socialists. Investigations into the Agusta affair were touched off by the still unexplained murder of Belgian socialist Andre Coombs in 1991.

Capital sniffs air in India after turning up volume at home

Outlook

Roger Cowe

NEW that Capital Radio is preparing to shatter the airwaves of Bombay and Delhi may fuel talk of cultural imperialism.

In fact, it is just another example of how Britain's commercial radio industry has grown up, and how maturing western industries seek continued growth by attempting to transplant their skills into developing economies.

Richard Eyre, Capital's managing director, announcing soaring half-year results, confirmed yesterday that the London-based company hopes to sign a deal with a joint-venture partner in India within months, although broadcasting depends on new legislation and is unlikely to begin much before 1999.

Mr Eyre also has an eye on other international possibilities, although New Zealand and South Africa have been rejected. "Barely a week goes by without someone bringing us a new opportunity."

He stressed that the company has not gone overboard on overseas expansion. "We will do it solely where we find an opportunity to enhance earnings," he said.

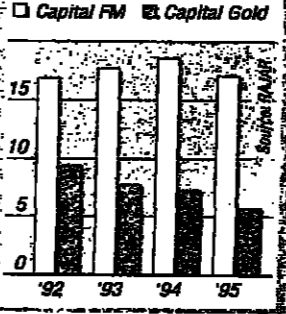
Indeed, Capital's new internationalism is matched by hyperactivity in the UK.

Despite its identification with London since the birth of commercial radio in 1973, Capital owns six other stations, including BRMB in Birmingham, Invicta in Kent and Fox in Oxford. Now it is bidding for licences in the East Midlands and in Yorkshire. Talk about cultural imperialism!

This is all part of an explosion which last year helped commercial radio overtake the BBC in terms of

Capital Radio

Share market value £494m
Share price 673p A +9p
Workforce 800
Interest cover 2.5x
Dividend 10p
Share of London's ears % of total hours in 4th quarter
Capital FM Capital Gold



food and drink usually considered the territory of visual media. But it is a cyclical business. This week's sale of Viva! — the women's-interest station launched last year — shows that success isn't automatic even in an expanding industry.

Capital went into the expansion in pole position, as the largest and first of the commercial stations. That is both positive and negative — competition is bound to reduce its share of the market, but the loyalty of such an established audience is hard for competitors to deflect.

The chart shows that the main FM station in London has fared reasonably well in the face of competition, but Capital Gold, which broadcasts on AM, has seen its share slip substantially. The company hopes to reverse that trend by winning a new FM licence which would become the new home for the classic pop station.

As a whole, Capital still has a strong hold over the capital's ears and a substantial lead over second-placed Virgin. But diversification is irresistible. Hence India and the decision to set up a Capital Radio Café on the ground floor of new premises in Leicester Square when the company moves from the landmark Capital Tower. If it works it might be replicated in the company's other venues around the country.

Then there is the Internet. Every self-respecting media company is groping on to the net these days, and Capital hopes to have a web site before the end of the year. Mr Eyre believes it could become much more than a token presence.

"There could be an opportunity for us to move into classified advertising and into retailing. It would be making an intelligent use of our brand values."

Today the Internet, tomorrow the world.

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look at what our lowest rate could do for you

Loan Amount	Monthly Repayment	Total Amount Payable	APR*
£1,000	£111.68	£5,331.84	15.9%
£2,000	£118.10	£5,668.80	12.9%
£3,000	£116.68	£5,504.64	12.9%
£4,000	£116.00	£5,568.00	18.7%

What you save with Hamilton Direct Bank

48 monthly repayments	Total amount payable	APR*
£188.07	£9,027.36	13.8%
£206.68	£9,920.64	12.9%
£200.69	£9,633.12	17.9%
£199.32	£9,567.36	17.5%

What you save with Hamilton Direct Bank

HAMILTON Direct Bank
A Division of HFC Bank plc

*13.8% APR on unsecured Personal Loans from £5,000 to £10,000.
15.9% APR on unsecured Personal Loans from £500 to £4,999.

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- Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time
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- Fast recharge - 55 mins
- 5 selectable ring tones
- Weight 250g

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- NEW GENERATION DIGITAL NOKIA - replaces the proven 2010 model
- ONE SECOND BILLING - you only pay for the airtime you use
- MORE POWER - up to 100 hours standby-time, up to 3.5 hours talk-time
- BEST COVERAGE - with digital call clarity and security
- FREE ACCESSORIES - in-car adaptor and leather case together worth over £55

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Racing

Wragg rules Prize out of the Derby

Chris Hawkins
THERE can be no complaints about Geoff Wragg's ability to win races with Prize Giving...



On the list... Oscar Schindler (centre) takes the Ormonde Stakes from Election Day and Minds Music PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE SELWYN

get a run, but finished fourth back in 1964 with Hul A Hul he has plenty of knowledge and experience to back up such an assertion.

Kevin Darley had gone 68 rides without a winner until Antonio's Choice broke his

nightmare spell by making all in the opening Sceptre Maiden Fillies Stakes.

Proof that Darley's luck had changed with the vengeance came when he completed a double on Highborn in the Wynn Handicap...

Carliste

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

Beverly

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Lingfield with Jackpot form

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RACELINE OFF TO PARIS
BEVERLY CARLISTE LINGFIELD STRATFORD MKT RASEN

Stratford National Hunt evening card
6.15 Barstone 6.40 Bittern (jnr) 6.50 Bittern (sen)

Results
CHESTER
2.10 (4) DREAMS 2.11 (5) ANTONIA'S CHANCE

Results
14 ran. Mr. de la (Mr. Murr) Tot: 217.20; 14.70, 20.20, 21.70, Dual F: 232.40; 14.70, 20.20, 21.70, Dual F: 232.40; 14.70, 20.20, 21.70, Dual F: 232.40



United's tragic Busby Babes before the Munich air crash in 1958... left to right, Wood, Edwards, Taylor, Whelan, Bent, Foulkes, Blanchflower, Webster, Violet, Colman and Berry

United await the final analysis

David Lacey compares the current Old Trafford team with some legendary forebears ahead of a date with destiny at Wembley

SUPERLATIVES abound when Doubles are around, and if Manchester United become the first club to repeat the feat of winning League and FA Cup in the same season, they will no doubt be hailed as the greatest English team of all time, or certainly the best ever to come out of Old Trafford.

The Liverpool side of Kevin Keegan and Steve Heighway, surprisingly beaten by Manchester United in the 1977 Cup final, had already won the league and went on to win the European Cup four days later. Liverpool won three more European Cups, a feat that still leaves them in a league of their own when discussing English classics.

At the time, both mentally and physically. Watch recordings of Bremner's Leeds team and the number of touches on the ball players were allowed appears a luxury by today's standards. Even Liverpool's European Cup-winning sides had a fraction more time to think and act.

Manchester United's followers can argue, with more justification, that within the confines of Old Trafford history the team they have watched this season has few peers. Only those of a certain age are in a position to disagree because here we are talking eras.

Manchester United won the European Cup in 1968 but no championships between 1967 and 1983, which narrows the scope for comparisons. The team of George Best, Bobby Charlton and Denis Law had a drawing power and a capacity to enthral that Eric Cantona and Ryan Giggs are only just beginning to recapture, but comparing like with like is almost impossible.

given the way the game has changed. Lift the ban on foreigners a decade earlier, put Cantona into the Sixties side, and only a streak by Brigitte Bardot would have been more calculated to take Old Trafford's breath away. Peel the years off Nobby Stiles and include him in the present team, and while his football would be up to the mark, he would not be on the field long enough to prove it.



United 1948 vintage... Johnny Carey holds the FA Cup



United 1970 vintage... George Best in his prime giving Cup rivals Ipswich the run around

Wonder boy is happy playing the father figure

Michael Walker talks to one of United's elder statesmen, 22-year-old Ryan Giggs

THE long peak of his grey baseball cap may have been pulled halfway down his face, but there was no mistaking the dark shining eyes that darted sheepishly underneath it.

more confident. "Though, he added, "it still have to ask permission. Everything's got to go through the manager."

are a lot more players doing things off the pitch and as long as you realise that football is your career, then it isn't a problem. You can enjoy it, getting away from football, but like any other player, you've got to be careful where you go and what you do outside football.

Last year was not so good for Giggs and niggling injuries meant he played a lot of games unfit and watched the Cup final from the bench. But having already won the title this season United are looking forward to exorcising the ghost of Everton at Wembley 12 months ago, although they respect Liverpool's quality.

Giggs's only regret of a fine season is that Wales have not qualified for Euro '86, particularly as it is being staged in England.

Table with 2 columns: Results and Soccer. Soccer section includes English League Second Division, Bottom Five, and First Division.

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Soccer QPR owner steps down

CHRIS WRIGHT, the millionaire founder of the record company Chrysalis and owner of Sheffield Sharks basketball club, emerged last night as the favourite to buy Queens Park Rangers.

stepped down from the QPR board to be replaced by the football administration manager Clive Berth and Alan Heeger, who doubles as general manager and safety officer at Loftus Road. Financial matters at Rangers will be dealt with by the board rather than the Thompson family.

McStay pulls out of Euro '86

EGIN JESS, the Coventry midfielder, was called into the Scotland squad preparing for Euro '86 yesterday after Paul McStay was forced to withdraw with an ankle injury.

friend, Denise. I'll be delighted to cancel it." Craig Brown, the manager, was disappointed by McStay's withdrawal, especially as there was little hint that he would not make it to England in June.

Golf Pyman enjoys simple fare

David Davies in Madrid

THREE years ago Iain Pyman won the Amateur championship with a tried and trusted piece of timber, a persimmon driver.

debut this week and has been tormented over a possible change of clubs — from those that gave him his amateur successes to a company presumably prepared to pay more.

The cream of the best

David Lacey's dream team:

- Peter Schmeichel; Johnny Carey; Martin Buchan; Alan Hogg; George Best; Bryan Robson; Bobby Charlton; Ryan Giggs; Eric Cantona; Denis Law.

EURO 86 FOOTLINE 099 099 1996. Includes Rugby Super League, Fixtures, Soccer, and Rugby Union sections.

Cricket 20 India in... Warren d... Includes various sports-related advertisements and text.

Cricket

Tour match: Worcestershire v Indians

Hick 200 puts India in a spin

David Hoppe at Worcester

WHEN English cricket dares imagine life as it should be, Graeme Hick invariably plays the dominating innings worth of his intrinsic talent, banishing all comers with disturbing ease.

tury of his career, 215 from 195 balls with 30 fours and six sixes, was an effortless deconstruction of an Indian attack unconvinced by a dull pitch and a piercing north-easterly wind. Caught at mid-wicket trying to pull Prasad, he walked off with the absent-minded expression of a farmer wandering back to his house after chopping firewood.

brought leg-side wickets in one-day cricket, and yesterday brought brief stalemate. Hirwani played his first Test for India for nearly five years last November — five wickets against New Zealand in Cuttack making him Man of the Match — and such was Hick's dismissive treatment that it might be five years before he plays another one.

County Championship: Surrey v Kent

Lewis gets his life back

David Foot at The Oval

KENT'S batting was at times as wayward as the pigeons that insisted on nose-diving the fielders or intrepidly stationing themselves in vast numbers at silly mid-off.

home is being acutely monitored, no doubt amid an equal proportion of hope and scepticism. He took two wickets, producing the best balls of the innings.

McGrath saves his best for the chairman

YORKSHIRE'S England A full-timer, Anthony McGrath chose a perfect if parky day to post his best County Championship score, getting out only nine short of his maiden century in front of the England chairman Ray Illingworth, writes Chris Curran.



Twist and clout... Domink Ostler joins in the runmaking at Hove. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BAFFON

Sussex v Warwickshire

An ungentle Knight

Paul Weaver at Hove

AT TIMES the positivity of Warwickshire's cricket borders on affrontery. Dermot Reeve set his sights on the target of scoring 500 against his old county yesterday and he looked disappointed when they reached a paucity 494 for three.

Warwickshire are without the injured Tim Munton. Gladstone Small, Michael Bell and Andy Moles but seldom can any club have made such an emphatic start to the defence of the title.

Rugby

A match that could result in one game

Paul Fitzpatrick on the implications of the historic meeting between Wigan and Bath

JASON ROBINSON was one of the smallest men on the field in Wednesday night's cross-code challenge match between Wigan and Bath at Maine Road.

dering on being God-like. I would like Bath to do one rugby league training session a week. If we did that, we would be a far better side than we are at the moment."

Arguments about the games' respective merits, though, are merely diversions to the central theme. The important question is how significant was Wednesday's match to the future development of the two codes?

Such has been the pace of change over the last year, however, that he would probably not have a very different view of the situation now. It is now possibly a question not of if but when.

Wakefield yesterday agreed to take the place of Bath, who have withdrawn from the tournament.

Sport in brief

Tennis Boris Becker's hopes of winning his first clay-court tournament were dashed yesterday when the former Wimbledon champion was outplayed by the Austrian Gilbert Schaller in the third round of the German Open in Hamburg.

Hockey

Britain's men's team remain anchored at the bottom of the rankings in the six-nation Sultan Azlan Shah tournament in Ipoh, Malaysia after losing 2-0 to South Korea, another of the countries who are in Britain's pool at the Atlanta Olympic Games, writes Pat Rowley.

Rugby Union

Gareth Hays, Canada's World Cup captain, is returning to Wasps, his first club. The fly-half, a history master at Eton, has scored 270 points for Newport this season.

Rugby League

London Broncos' captain Terry Matterson was last night banned for two matches. The Australian was sent off for a high tackle at Leeds last weekend.

Northamptonshire v Glamorgan

Warren digs in

Mike Selvey at Northampton

THE old football stands have gone and the County Ground prettied up, but when an easterly wind comes in like a switchblade it remains an unwelcome place. Apart from loamy Boxing Day matches on the Goodwin Sands, cricket was never meant to be played in such temperatures and it would have been grateful yesterday to see a St Bernard bringing out the drinks.

coming from Russell Warren with his second championship century after Richard Montgomerie (52) and Alan Fordham (52) had seen the innings off to a flying start with an opening partnership of 105. With Warren was David Capel, who will resume today on 51, the fifth-wicket partnership worth 146.

Scoreboard

Northamptonshire v Glamorgan

Northamptonshire (44) have scored 332 for 4 against Glamorgan (1).

Table with 2 columns: Player and Score. Includes names like R R Montgomerie, R R Fordham, M S Lloyd, etc.

Middlesex v Durham

Middlesex (44) have scored 103 for 4 against Durham (1).

Table with 2 columns: Player and Score. Includes names like M R Ramprakash, M R Bell, etc.

Worcestershire v Indians

Worcestershire (44) have scored 494 for 3 against Indians (1).

Table with 2 columns: Player and Score. Includes names like D Reeve, D J Giddins, etc.

County Championship

Worcestershire (44) have scored 494 for 3 against Indians (1).

Table with 2 columns: Player and Score. Includes names like D Reeve, D J Giddins, etc.

Cricket

News and Scores

0891 22 88+

Table with 2 columns: Counties update and Score. Includes Derbyshire, Durham, Essex, etc.

Complete county scores 0891 22 88 30

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SportsGuardian

FA snub for fans in ticket scandal

Martin Thorpe and John Duncan on the controversy rocking Euro '96

THOUSANDS of supporters who paid for European Championship tickets will spend the next week waiting to discover if they are valid.

According to the Euro '96 tournament director Glen Kirton, "about 10,000 ticket applications are subject to investigation" after a police inquiry into unauthorised hospitality packages.

Euro '96 phone lines were jammed yesterday with calls from anxious supporters worried that they may have paid for or booked unauthorised tickets.

Their concern followed Wednesday's revelations that the FA's commercial director Trevor Phillips had left his job after allegedly being implicated in approving tickets for unauthorised companies.

Kirton believes the majority of applications for tickets, which are due to be delivered by the end of the month, will be cleared. But he warned fans: "We cannot accept responsibility for ascertaining whether they have bought a pup; whether they have gone to somebody who shouldn't be handling those tickets. So it's up to the person concerned to go and check that they are genuine."

Police have discovered various sources of suspect tickets. They are investigating a man who employed dozens of people to make personal applications before he sold them on abroad as hospitality packages.

Thirty bulk applications are also being investigated. Euro '96 is questioning the validity of applications which purport to be from football clubs or firms on an outing whose members say they want to sit together at games. Another 15 bulk applications have already been found to be genuine, but the 30 have been given a week to prove they are genuine.

"We will not allow them to get the tickets to sell on as hospitality packages," said Kirton. "If we discover these bulk applications are fronts they won't get their tickets. Our sole aim is safety and security."

Euro '96 yesterday told those who phoned that they

will definitely receive tickets if they have booked them through the official ticket distributors Synchro, through the ticket hotline, or through Keith Frowse and Sportworld or their authorised sub-contractors.

"Any supporter who said they got their tickets from another, unauthorised source was told: 'you'd better go back to them and check it,'" said Kirton.

Kirton admitted the whole episode was embarrassing. "It is embarrassing because we supported the police operation and the first thing that has happened is that the name of a colleague has been mentioned," he said.

Phillips is understood to have agreed a total of 2,000 tickets for three unauthorised companies.

Sieve Hamer, a director of one of those companies, the National Sporting Club, which received 1,100 tickets, said he met with Phillips last June.

"We had a lunch to explore the possibility of obtaining tickets for clients of the NSC at Euro '96. Mr Phillips said he was able to assist in this and we were put in touch with Synchro."

The NSC, of which the former Test cricketer Bob Willis is non-executive chairman, was given vouchers for 100 tickets for every game at Old Trafford and Wembley.

Euro '96 said yesterday that they would honour the agreements with NSC and the two other companies, Events International and Chas Wheeler. "If the National Sporting Club provides details of the individuals they are representing, subject to security checks we will send tickets directly to those individuals."

However, another director of the NSC, David Willis, when asked if he had threatened Euro '96 with legal action for the tickets, replied: "We pointed out the consequences of the failure to keep to their contract."

Hamer was arrested during a police raid on the NSC. Yesterday he said he "would be very surprised if we didn't take legal action" for wrongful arrest. The experience of the raid was "humiliating" and "demeaning", he said.

The Labour MP Kate Hoey yesterday asked the Minister for Sport if he plans to meet with the football authorities to discuss the ticket problems.

UNHAPPY FINISH FOR BRIGHTON AND KNIGHTON



Parting shot... York City won and avoided relegation in front of a small, resigned crowd at the Goldstone FRANK BAPTON

York postscript dooms Carlisle

Tom Evans finds a chairman threatening legal action after a delayed execution

THE Carlisle chairman Michael Knighton will be taking legal advice this morning in his running battle with the Football League as the Cumbrian club yesterday returned to the Third Division from where they had emerged last season as champions.

York City, needing a point to avoid the drop at Carlisle's expense, won their rearranged match at Brighton 3-1. Knighton was among the 2,106 crowd at the Goldstone ground, and afterwards continued to blame the League for their handling of the affair.

"I shall be speaking to my lawyers tomorrow," he said. "This is not the last of the matter. I will be seeking an audience with the Football League and hope they will do all in their power to avoid this situation occurring in the future."

"A principle is at stake, even if we had won, and it must be discussed and debated. We feel very strongly about this issue and believe it hasn't been conducted on a level playing field. It's been badly handled. Today's match simply should have been played before."

The original match on April 27 had to be abandoned when angry Brighton fans invaded the pitch and tore down the goals. Brighton took no chances with yesterday's game, which was distinguished by what looked like the highest steward/spectator ratio in soccer history.

Carlisle insist that York were handed an unfair advantage, given that they were the only team in the country who went into their final league game knowing what result was required of them.

Knighton had no complaints, though, about Brighton's efforts. "In the first half Brighton didn't let down," he said, "but they didn't have everything at stake as York did."

Craig Maskell, in fact, gave Brighton the lead on 19 minutes with a swerving shot, but second-half goals

by Gary Bull, Paul Stephenson and Scott Jordan ensured York's survival. Their manager Alan Little admitted York had "escaped relegation by the skin of their teeth. We wanted it the most, and it's a party atmosphere for us now."

The party spirit was missing earlier, however, when tempers rose. Rowe of Brighton and Sharples of York came to blows and were shown the final red cards of the regular League season.

History ends with a bang from a gavel



Frank Keating

AS Jacqueline Onassis posthumously proved the other week, there is nothing like the sentimental perception of the end of an era to push up prices in the saleroom — so no end of inflated bids are expected tomorrow at Phillips's auction house in London when the late Brian Johnston's board of cricketing bits and pieces — "cricketana" — goes under the hammer.

"I suppose old Summers will be bidding for most of Johnners' junk," joked a friend yesterday. "Come again? 'Well, wasn't he one of the commentators's bereaved and beloved cronies referred to by Prime Minister Major on Johnston's death in 1994? You remember: 'Summers will never be the same.'"

Besides Johnston's mostly knick-knack relics, the sale includes several hundred lots of serious cricketing memorabilia such as Spycricket, ancient Wisdens, G G Hearne's diaries of the MCC tour of South Africa in 1891-92 and, most collectible of all, the inscribed bat with which Don Bradman scored his 212 against England at Adelaide in 1937.

But Johnners' collection of nickies will hog all the headlines and un-damn all the tea-draws. Such is the affection in which his memory is held that the prices of his essentially trivial lots will be pushed up fivefold by the fever to get something, anything, for sentiment's sake, just as they were at the exorbitant MCC auction at Lord's in 1987 when a pile of handkerchiefs of which Dr W G allegedly once blew his nose, and which had been valued at £30, were gavelled down at more than £800.

The sale estimate on Johnston's bacon-and-egg MCC tie is a whopping £150, but it will doubtless go for much more tomorrow, although shrewder collectors will probably concentrate on his Test Match Special tie or his Saturday best sported for the Primary Club. "He had so many ties that I could not shut the wardrobe door," said his widow Pauline yesterday. "He was sent so many that there were hundreds more in a trunk."

His Panama hat will also be knocked down to the highest

bidder but not, alas, his famous co-respondent shoes, which he always referred to as "my old brown-and-whiters".

The price of cricketana, as opposed to that of any other sport, has been a saleroom phenomenon over the past couple of decades. There is little sign of a slump. A leading collector is the journalist and author David Frith who says: "I have been expecting the bubble to burst for years, but it hasn't yet and prices are holding up remarkably on almost every front."

But Frith adds, with his engaging gloominess: "It's not a young man's fancy and, recently we have lost two devoted specialist collectors [Bob Jones and Don Rowan] and the rest of us are getting older by the day — so there is a distinct possibility that soon many more executors will be preparing to flood the market and there could be many more vendors than purchasers."

Among the pictures ready to be taken off the saleroom wall is a colour-photograph portrait of Johnston himself, hanging next to it — ironically, for in life, being such different fellows, they never saw eye to eye — is a pencil-and-chalk portrait of the late John Arlott, to all intents the founder of the radio feast which the good Johnston tucked into with such relish in the latter part of his life.

At Worcester yesterday we were reflecting on how the Johnston sale somehow closes a cultural chapter for sentimental Brits of a certain "wireless" age, just as the Onassis-Kennedy auction finally drew the curtain on the last vestiges of America's Camelot fable.

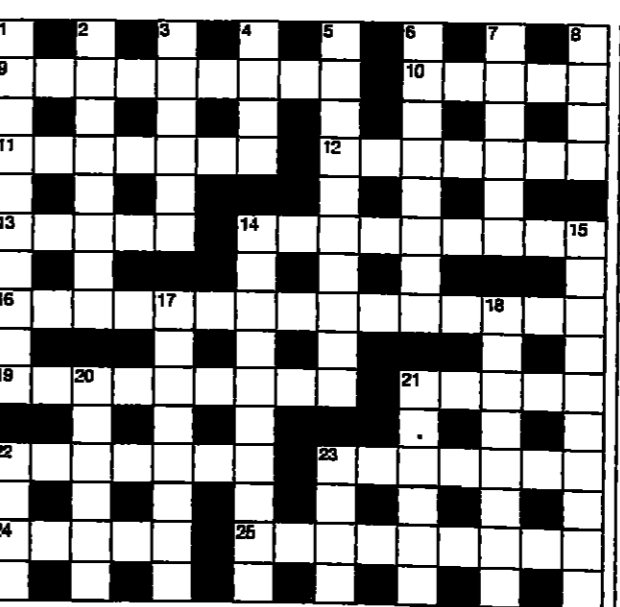
It was an appropriate place for such thoughts, as a half-century passage could be said to have started in the first days of May in 1946, at that very same wind-blown field at Worcester and, to complete the anniversary exactitude, with the Indians playing. For it was 50 years ago on May 4 1946 that Arlott made his first live cricket broadcast — for the Eastern section of the BBC World Service — when India began their tour on the traditional springtime sanctum alongside the silvery Severn.

In his autobiography, Basingstoke Boy, Arlott said that that auspicious day "had opened up a glimpse of high pleasure — watching cricket without undue work strain seemed, and continued to be for many years, happiness almost beyond belief."

Fifty years on, almost to the day, Johnston's sale somehow ties up the whole story neatly, if dolefully. Summers just can't be the same.

Guardian Crossword No 20,649

Set by Custos



- Across**
- 9 Amuse, getting record thanks at home (9)
 - 10 Plant a kiss on cheek after getting ring (5)
 - 11 Pawnbroker, mostly when penny's beginning, is open (7)
 - 12 It isn't a top journalist that's corrupted (7)
 - 13 Hardy race pass into disuse, we hear (5)
 - 14 Why you and I will circle most of county town (9)
 - 16 Understand the sabre rattling, and gasp (5,4,6)
 - 19 Lobe needs patching up — result of a punch? (4-5)
 - 21 Part of flower pales, withering (5)
 - 22 Umbelliferous plant ripe leg when growing wild (7)
 - 23 Boxer, a merciful person? That's about right (7)
 - 24 Some more lift-off, in retrospect, is smoother perhaps (6)
 - 25 Place attracting moderate notoriety (9)
- Down**
- 1 Queen upset over mine hoet being anti-monarchist (10)
 - 2 Supply of soup makes family a lot of money (5-3)
 - 3,4 After interval rescals demantles temporary dwellings (6,4)
 - 5 A French male's having pudding served up, without suffering strain (10)
 - 6 Active person around the pit to rule arbitrarily (8)
 - 7 British type of Bringo gets one helplessly drunk (6)
 - 8 Copied exercises in a day (4)
 - 14 Urge to travel gives staff an odd result (10)
 - 15 Enliven flar wallowing in past enmity (10)

Solution tomorrow

- 20 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0891 332221. Calls cost 39p per min, cheap rate, 49p per min, other times. Service supplied by ATS
- 17 Exotic dance for which goddess circulates a taboo (6)
- 18 Current Prince's captivates millions with passes (6)
- 20,21 Drunk's foolish excursion? It leads to vacillation (6-6)
- 22 Examine closely condition in carriage way (4)
- 23 See boor cry, left inside (4)

The original paper



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Handwritten Arabic text: ٥٠٩٧ ٣٦١٣